

Hafa Adai!

NMC lifts austerity. **PAGE 2**  
19 sworn in as new citizens. **PAGE 4**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Tydingco-Gatewood



Tang

## 'Settlement Fund no longer in imminent danger of collapse'

» **Judge approves increasing Tang's hourly rate from \$250 to \$350**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Although the Settlement Fund is far from being out of the woods, it is no longer in imminent danger of collapse

today, according to the Fund's trustee, Joyce C. H. Tang.

This comes as U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood approved Tang's request to increase her rate from \$250

per hour to \$350 per hour.

In the letter to Tydingco-Gatewood dated Dec. 5, Tang informed the judge that she believes their team is achieving good results for CNMI retirees

See **SETTLEMENT** on **Page 4**

## AS IPI GENERAL COUNSEL

# San Nicolas reconsiders

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

**F**ormer CNMI attorney general and Tinian mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas is reconsidering whether to accept or not the job as general counsel for casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Outgoing IPI general counsel Phillip J. Tydingco told U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglo-na at a hearing yesterday morning that San Nicolas called him five minutes before the hearing to tell him he is reconsidering accepting the job as IPI gen-

eral counsel.

Tydingco's last day as IPI general counsel is today, Friday. Early this week, Tydingco filed a motion to withdraw as counsel for IPI in many cases pending before the District Court.



San Nicolas

*Saipan Tribune* contacted San

Nicolas for clarification on the matter yesterday but he did not reply as of press time.

A source disclosed yesterday that San Nicolas didn't accept the job.

In his declaration in support of his motion to withdraw, Tydingco said that IPI hired

See **SAN NICOLAS** on **Page 4**

» **Judge sanctions IPI; orders IPI to pay attorneys' fees, court costs**



By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Boatloads of people witnessed the arrival of the traditional canoe called *Che'lu*

at the Guma Sakman in the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe last Sunday.

The traditional Chamorro outrigger canoe, or *sakman*, was greeted on the beach

around 2:05pm by the sounds of *kulus*, or Chamorro shell horns, and joyous singing. There were also dancers and a lot of food and music, according to the IPI.

See **CHE'LU** on **Page 4**

MAXINE LASZLO

*Che'lu* is cheered on by cultural dancers and onlookers as she arrives last Sunday at the Guma Sakman in the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe.



## INSIDE



**OPINION**  
Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club's production of *Mamma Mia!* was a huge success.

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**BUSINESS**  
Saipan Vegas Resort located in Chalan Lau Lau on Middle Road just keeps growing.

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**OFF THE WALL**  
About \$3 million in cash is recovered from barrels of pork in a tractor trailer.

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## Local

# NMC lifts austerity

The Northern Marianas College officially lifted the austerity measures imposed on the college, including salary deductions and biweekly work

hour cuts, effective Dec. 3. According to interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico,

the austerity measures implemented since early this year were cautiously lifted, as the Department of Finance continues to work on transferring allocated funding for the college for fiscal year 2019.

In the last two weeks, NMC has received approximately \$2 million from the Department of Finance in fiscal year 2019 funding, Eliptico said.

"Since Nov. 26, the Department of Finance transferred approximately \$1.9 million to Northern Marianas College. This includes all the pending amounts for fiscal year 2019," he said.

Eliptico said he has also received information that NMC will be receiving another \$500,000 from DOF today as allocated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

NMC continues to work with the Department of Finance to work out a regular schedule for the transfer of fiscal year 2020 allocations.

"We would like to thank Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Secretary of Finance David Atalig for their help in making the transfers of funds and in prioritizing the allocations these past two weeks," Eliptico said. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

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# Pangelinan: We are aggressively enforcing CNMI dog control law

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

Martin Pangelinan, the new manager of the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program, says that he has started aggressively enforcing the regulation that requires dog owners to register their animals with the mayor's office.

Part of that is doing outreach programs to inform the community that if their dogs are not registered, they will be impounded immediately, Pangelinan said in an interview.

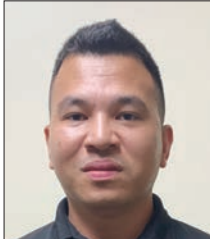
"We are going to start enforcing the law a little bit more aggressively. We are going house to house and educating the public about the Dog Control Program and the public law that every dog in the CNMI must be registered," he said. "When we start enforcing it, whatever dog that are out on the street, without a tag, we will impound and this is just for the safety of our community and the safety of our kids."

Pangelinan said he wants to

be a bit more forceful about dog registration to make it easier for him and his team to clear the streets of strays for the safety of children.

"I guess the biggest priority is the safety of the community and especially our kids when they're walking on the streets. There's a lot of stray dogs on the streets and we want them out. That's why we would like the public to register their dogs so we can tell the difference," he said.

Pangelinan, who took on the position last Oct. 1 following Spencer Marchadesch's resignation, said that in order to manage a program like the Dog Control Program, you need to be more aggressive so the word really gets out there. Pangelinan is confident that he can effectively enforce this mandate.



Pangelinan

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Pangelinan said he estimates the completion of the outreach program in another two to three months.

Pangelinan is a former firefighter for about eight years before he took on the position of Dog Control Program manager.

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# Pilot from Armenia, 18 others take oath as new citizens

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A Star Marianas pilot who hails from Armenia was among 19 individuals who were sworn in yesterday as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Alexander Kochikyan, 33, just arrived on Saipan last May to work as a pilot. Once he finishes his contract with Star Marianas, he plans to go back to the U.S. mainland.

Kochikyan used to play the violin as a musician in Armenia. He was a political asylee in Los Angeles, California, where he lived for 10 years before coming to Saipan.

Kochikyan said that when he first arrived in Los Angeles, he found out that being a musician was not practical for him. “I had to practice a lot. I invested a lot of time and effort, and it does not bring enough results,” he said. That’s when he decided to become a pilot. He held a green card for five years before applying for

citizenship.

For Maria Cecilia Obaldo, 53, who originally came from Cavite in the Philippines, obtaining her U.S. citizenship is a happy occasion considering that she has lived on Saipan for nearly three decades now. Obaldo first came to Saipan in 1991 when she worked as an accountant at Pioneer.

She obtained her green card through her daughter, who is turning 27 and is with the U.S. Army.

At present, Obaldo manages the Blue Haus Wholesaler and Retailer

in Garapan.

For Watchareepron Ontree, a native of Thailand, the occasion makes her both excited and a little nervous too. Ontree, 24, arrived on Saipan in 2011 after her mother, a green card holder, petitioned her. She just finished this year her associate degree in accounting at the Northern Marianas College. Ontree said she is now planning to work for an accounting or banking company on the island.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presided over the naturalization ceremony. Most of the new citizens are from the Philippines and the rest are from Armenia, Thailand, South Korea, and Canada.

Kennedy urged the new citizens to consider one very important thing—to register to vote. Being registered voters not only gives them a voice in the community, but lets them have an impact in the judicial system, she said.

She said the court takes jurors from the voters’ list.

“Serving as a jury is an interesting and important process to ensure equal justice for all citizens and non-citizens alike,” she said.

Kennedy said they need the new citizens to serve as jurors in this court because diversity not only strengthens the community but the American judicial system.

She said that jurors from various cultural ethnic background provide equality and foster balance in the judicial system.

“It is an important task and an ex-

tremely rewarding one. So register to vote and enjoy serving your nation, its judicial system, and this particular court,” Kennedy said.

She had three messages for the new citizens: to enjoy the holiday season, to focus on what they have in common, and to do what they can, whether large or small, to contribute “to this wonderful diverse community.”

Immigration Services officer Shelia Kely, who has been on Saipan for five years and is leaving the CNMI for re-assignment duty in Houston, served as the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Kely said the new citizens have taken so many chances in their journey—becoming business owners, going to college, becoming advocates. These things may not have been possible had the new citizens not chosen to come to the CNMI, Kely said.

“Today you’ve taken another chance, you’ve taken an oath to be loyal to a country not of birth but of love,” she said. “So as you begin your journey as U.S. citizens, I encourage you, challenging you even, to continue to take chances. The best is yet to come.”

The other new naturalized U.S. citizens are Grace Milad Brooks, Monica Joy Estacio Canete, Violeta Masanque Centeno, Patrick Delfin Fernandez, Rodolfo Pascual Feliciano, Noli Dominico Fera, Greg Hitigan Gapor, Han Yoo Lee, Simeon Delgado Maalihan, Girlie Sison Pangelinan, Rey Bation Pestillos, Mary Ann Salvador Reyes, Samson Fernandez Salgado, Magdalena Orbino Santoceldes, Glenn Alan Smith, and Elizabeth Bartolome Torres.

## SAN NICOLAS

From Page 1

San Nicolas as his replacement as IPI general counsel last Friday, Dec. 6, and that San Nicolas will soon be filing his appearance in the cases that he (Tydingco) previously handled.

At yesterday’s hearing, Tydingco argued for IPI. Kelley Butcher also appeared as Tydingco’s co-counsel for IPI.

The hearing yesterday was about motions in connection with the seven workers who are suing IPI and its contractor and subcontractor over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI’s casino/resort project in Garapan.

After hearing the counsels’ arguments, Manglona denied IPI’s second motion to stay or suspend the proceedings in the seven workers’ lawsuit.

Manglona also denied IPI’s motion for a protective order that seeks to prevent all discovery in the workers’ lawsuit pending the resolution of IPI’s motion to stay or suspend the proceeding in this case.

Manglona granted the workers’ counter-motion to compel IPI to respond to their discovery requests. The judge ordered IPI to respond to all discovery requests.

Manglona granted the workers’ motion to impose sanction on IPI and ordered the company to pay attorneys’ fees to the plaintiffs/workers for bringing the motion to compel.

The judge ordered the workers’ counsels, Bruce Berline and Aaron Halegua, to submit their motion for attorneys’ fees and costs related to the

filing of the counter-motion to compel by Dec. 19, 2019.

Manglona also granted Tydingco’s motion to withdraw as counsel for IPI.

Manglona granted Halegua’s oral motion that IPI not submit new objections to the discovery requests.

The judge, however, denied Halegua’s oral motion requiring Tydingco to provide an update to Butcher regarding steps taken to ensure the availability of all electronically stored information.

According to the minutes of the hearing, in his argument in support of IPI’s motion to stay, Tydingco asked the court to take notice of prior filings on IPI’s first motion to stay regarding ongoing criminal investigations and search warrants against IPI.

In IPI’s motion for a protective order, Tydingco said such order is warranted in this case as allowing discovery to proceed in light of IPI’s motion to stay defeats or otherwise undermines the purpose and intent of the mandatory stay.

Tydingco added that this would cause IPI to “suffer annoyance, oppression as well as deprivation of certain protections and rights associated with criminal proceedings.”

In plaintiffs’ opposition to IPI’s motion for a protective order, Halegua and Berline said that IPI asked the District Court for the protective order to stay all discovery only last Nov. 21 in its persistent efforts to avoid producing even a single document or answering a single interrogatory in this litigation, that the petition for the protective order came months after being served with the plaintiffs’ discovery requests and just four

days prior to the date on which it had agreed to respond to those requests.

Halegua and Berline said that, without citing any relevant legal authority, IPI unpersuasively argues that “good cause” exists for the court to halt all discovery of any form because, one week earlier, IPI filed a second motion for a stay pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

The lawyers said IPI only offers conclusory statements and speculation of the harm that will result if a protective order is not granted, yet cites no specific facts or examples.

The lawyers said IPI’s motion for a protective order must be rejected, describing it as “clearly just one more tactic to delay discovery.”

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC, and MCC’s subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI, through Tydingco, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

## SETTLEMENT

From Page 1

When she was first appointed as Settlement Fund trustee in September 2013, the forecast was that the Fund would run out of money in 2017, Tang said. That catastrophe has not happened and Tang attributes this to the “good work and contributions of many people.”

She pointed out that, at that time of her appointment, her billing rate was \$250 per hour, which was mid-range in the rates being charged by other attorneys in Guam with similar experience.

In the past six years, as her law firm’s overhead and operating costs have risen significantly, she has gradually increased her rates several times in Guam, but she hasn’t done so as the Fund’s trustee, Tang said.

Given the change in conditions over the past six years, she asked

Tydingco-Gatewood to increase her rate from \$250 an hour to \$350. Tang said she has discussed this request with Betty Johnson and class’ counsel Marjorie Bronster and that the latter confirmed that Bronster does not object to the increase.

As per Tang’s request, the new rate will take effect beginning with her June 11, 2019 invoice for work performed in May 2019, and going forward.

Tydingco-Gatewood, who appointed Tang to the position of trustee of the Fund, granted Tang’s request yesterday, saying she finds the request to be reasonable, particularly because of the Fund’s positive financial status and better-than-expected investment return this fiscal year.

In granting Tang’s request, Tydingco-Gatewood said at the time of the trustee’s appointment, she approved a remuneration rate of \$250 per hour, subject to future increase approved by the court upon the trustee’s petition.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered the Settlement Fund to pay Tang the sum of \$66,577, which represents 90% of the trustee’s professional fees and all expenses incurred during the months of May through September 2019, or invoices dated June to November 2019.

Tydingco-Gatewood said she has reviewed Tang’s invoices and finds the request for compensation and reimbursement of expenses to be reasonable.

She said the court is satisfied with the work performed by Tang during this timeframe.

The judge ordered the Fund to hold in trust to the credit of the trustee the sum of \$7,397, which represents 10% of the trustee’s professional fees for this time period.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Tang may petition for release of the 10% retainer on a quarterly basis, subject to the court’s satisfaction of the trustee’s work and any objections to the compensation requests.

## CHE’LU

From Page 1

ing to 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez.

“Other 500 Sails canoes were in the water to sail in with us. We even had a small hammerhead shark [as] an escort in the lagoon,” he added.

On board the *Che’lu* were Perez himself, *sakman* captain Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Mario Borja, who built the *sakman* with his crew in San Diego, April Repeki, Henry Maluweliu, and Ray Alvarez.

The grand welcome on Saipan was organized by the Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc./Canoe Federation and Reps. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), and Luis J. Castro (R-Saipan).

What makes *Che’lu* important is it’s a collaboration between the Sakman Chamorro organization of Saipan and the Che’lu organization of San Diego, Perez said.

“Saipan bought the redwood log and provided collected historical research on the Chamorro *proas* and San Diego built the canoe. The canoe was shipped to Guam where it has been since [the 2016 Festival of the Pacific Art], and was sailed there. But now it is on Saipan because we have swimming and sailing programs that are producing canoe sailors that can become crew for *Che’lu* as she begins a new life as a voyaging canoe,” he said.

Before arriving on Saipan, the *Che’lu* had overnight stops on Rota and Tinian where it had similar warm welcomes from the local community.

“Lots of people came out to wel-

come us and get a look at *Che’lu* when we arrived on Tinian and Saipan. On Tinian [Mayor Edwin P. Aldan] and the Indigenous Affairs Office organized a wonderful island greeting,” said Perez.

As recalled by Perez, Deborah Fleming described *Che’lu*’s arrival on Tinian this way: “*Ai adai!* It was dark when she came into the San Halum Harbor, just a green light glowing. ... The island dancers greet[ed] it with songs and ukulele as [the] *Che’lu* is towed in, then [a] small boy call[ed] on the *kulu* as *Che’lu* is moored. She is a ... sleek lady decked in ocher and black; her crew enlivened with scents of barbecue. All is well.”

Perez said it was beautiful to see and hear the Tinian people welcome them as the *Che’lu* arrived after two days of heavy seas and strong winds.

“*Che’lu* was towed after strong winds damaged both the *lahi* (yard) and the *palauan* (boom) during sea trials [in] Guam. Towing is very, very hard on a canoe and crew, but *Che’lu* proved very strong and we all were better mariners for the experience,” he said.

Along the way to Saipan, 500 Sails supplied two volunteer crews to man boats to escort the *Che’lu* to Saipan waters. The crew was manned by captain Juan Barcinas and Elvin Masga of Tinian, captains Alvin Iglesias and Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and Basilio Blas of Saipan, and Gus Hocog of Rota.

500 Sails is a cultural restoration project that aims to bring back the indigenous sailing traditions of the Marianas Islands, both Chamorro and Carolinian. Its goal is to have to have 500 *sakmans* or *proas* plying the Marianas waters by 2030.



# Las Vegas Night nets \$30,000

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan raised \$30,000 in this year's edition of the Las Vegas Night fundraiser, which is a little less than the previous year.

Still, the Rotary Club was still able to hit its revenue goal, according to Rotary Club Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu.

Las Vegas Night was held last weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Ayuyu said this year's grand prize winner, Eduardo Pelagio, opted for the 2020 Mirage G4 sedan instead of the \$10,000 cash prize. That lowered the amount raised after expenses to slightly lower than the net \$34,000 they made the previous year, she added.

"Our net was \$30,000. It's a little smaller than we made last year because the winner got the car. If he didn't get the car, it would have been the same as last year, about \$34,000," she said.

Ayuyu explained that \$13,000 from the funds raised through ticket sales went to the purchase of the vehicle.

"Triple J helped us by lowering the price of the car but Rotary shoulders the purchase of the car from the ticket sales. The car was \$13,000, the actual price of the car is over \$20,000. If the winner did not choose the car, then we would have given away \$10,000," she said.

Excluding the purchase of the vehicle and other expenses, Ayuyu reports that Las Vegas Night fundraiser raked in \$50,000.

"I want to say thank you to all the volunteers, from IPI, from McDonald's, from Ernst & Young, from Bank of Saipan, I just want to thank them for all their help. I know they dedicated their time for us so I really want to thank them. We appreciate what they did," she said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, proceeds from Las Vegas Night usually funds the Rotary Club's community projects, which include providing meals to the elderly, donating dictionaries to schools, maintaining school bus shelters, putting up welcome signs for tourists at the airport, and more.

The Rotary will also use a portion of the money to build a playground for children with disabilities on the island.



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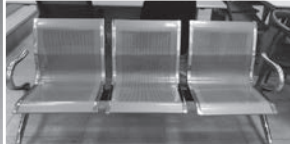
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# Bill on single-use plastic bag ban moves forward

As the islandwide ban on single-use plastic bags moves a step forward, the bill's author, Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), hopes that its passage would lead to a shift among consumers and businesses into using reusable bags.

With tourism as the CNMI's main industry, and the geographical size of the island being very small, Sablan believes it is vital to prioritize the protection of the environment.

"We use tourism as our main industry. When our visitors come, they want to see a clean environment, and so that was the force behind me introducing this bill," Sablan said.

The Plastic Bag Bill, or Senate Bill 21-37, seeks to prohibit the importation and production of single-use plastic bags in the CNMI four months after its enactment, and would bar businesses from providing

single-use plastic checkout bags a year after its enactment. This gives businesses ample time to make the adjustments necessary to implement the ban.

"There has been a lot of misconception that all plastics will be banned," the senator said. "We want to start small and we want to start somewhere. So, we're just looking at the checkout bags at the counter. Trash bags, produce bags, bags of ice, those will still be allowed."

"What we're trying to do and promote is the practice of bringing your own bags into the store or using paper or boxes, and transporting items that you purchased at stores using those," he added.

Sablan pointed out that everyone in the community has to do a part to keep the beaches pristine, and the wildlife and

marine life protected. The ban is also a step to preventing more trash ending up in the landfill.

"It comes at a time where we are having issues to fund our local landfill. Our transfer stations are really at their peak, and we are trying to control that. We are trying to find

money to manage our trash," Sablan said. "I understand that change is very hard. We have been living with the use of plastic bags for years, but I think our society can move into this new positive practice to keep our environment clean."

The Senate is currently ac-

cepting comments and recommendations prior to packaging it into a final polished bill.

Palau, Hawaii, Guam, Yap, Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Marshall Islands have already implemented bans or restrictions on the use of single-use plastic. (Iva Maurin)

## Join the 2019 Christmas Bird Count

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Want to be part of a worldwide bird count? Join the Saipan Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 18, Wednesday.

Every year the world comes together to participate in the Christmas Bird Count, and with the CNMI being home to bird species found nowhere else, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife is encour-

aging everyone to join in the count.

Volunteers will meet at 6am at the American Memorial Park, and will be divided into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Teams will spread out to cover the island, to find and record as many birds and bird species as possible.

"The event provides important data about bird population trends and helps inform conservation efforts," DFW's

Emilie Kohler said. "It is also a good opportunity for the participants to learn more about the birds in their backyard."

Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project.

Data gathered from surveying the birds help biologists and wildlife agencies study bird population all over the world, and how it changes, over the past hundred years. This aids in coming up with strategies to help protect the birds and their habitat.

"Last year, the CBC had 76,987 participants in Canada, the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean, and Pacific Islands. Saipan has been a part of this winter tradition for more than 20 years," Kohler added.

On Monday, Dec. 16, 5:45pm, the public is invited to attend a talk, "Bird Species of Saipan," at the American Memorial Park in Garapan, sponsored by the DFW and the Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management.

The presentation is an opportunity for the public to learn Saipan bird species identification by sight and song, and will also prepare volunteers participating in the Christmas Bird Count.

Volunteers, if able, can bring binoculars.

To join the bird count, or more information, contact Kohler at (670) 285-7125 or kohler.dfw@gmail.com.

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## Nishida gets full-ride scholarship

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School senior Kate Yamamoto Nishida joins the list of CNMI students who received a full four-year scholarship through QuestBridge National Match Scholarship and is set to live her dream of a “guilt-free” college experience.

Nishida, who will pursue her college education in Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, said her dream was to go to college without having to burden her mother with tuition, so the news of a full college ride through QuestBridge is a dream come true.

“[When] I researched colleges at the end of my junior year, my heart sank when I looked at the annual tuition costs. So when I did get matched to Bowdoin College, I went home that day and cried tears of joy because I would receive the education that I’ve always wanted and not have to worry my family about costs,” she said.

Nishida shared that she wasn’t even expecting to receive a QuestBridge Scholarship because of her performance in high school. Getting a rejection letter from the Gates Scholarship did not help



Marianas High School senior Kate Yamamoto Nishida.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

her confidence.

“I wasn’t expecting to match with a college through QuestBridge. My SAT scores weren’t particularly outstanding and I knew that QuestBridge college partners have extremely low acceptance rates,” she said.

Nishida was inspired to apply for QuestBridge after her sister received the same scholarship back in 2014 and received a full-ride to Grinnell College.

“At the time, I remember everyone making a big deal out of it, but it never really dawned on me how much her

scholarship helped lift some of the financial burden off of my family until it [was] my turn to apply for college,” she said.

Nishida hopes to inspire others to pursue a scholarship through QuestBridge. “Coming from a small island, we tend to believe that things like full-scholarships at top colleges in the [U.S.] mainland are too far out of reach. I used to think so too,” she said.

MHS’ James Matthew Quijano Reyes also received a scholarship through QuestBridge and was matched with Washington University in St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri.

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# MTEC outreach continues at Da'ok Academy, SSHS

Students of Da'ok Academy and Saipan Southern High recently welcomed Marianas Tourism Education Council to their campuses to learn about Marianas tourism and how students can participate in the industry.

Approximately 100 students at the schools learned about tourism and hospitality from MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, MTEC board member Catherine Perry, and Marianas Visitors Authority community programs specialist Jack Aranda.

"I have to commend the students of both schools for being attentive and interested in learning about tourism, how it affects their daily lives, and how they can become involved in the one industry that affects everyone," said Benavente. "Based on the feedback they provided, it's clear that they're grasping the concept that 'Tourism is Everybody's Business.' We hope they will take our suggestion to begin exploring their future in tourism even at a young age."

This year's theme, "Vol-unTOURISM: Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow," reflects the opportunities available to students to engage with the industry and to prepare for the leadership roles they will take in the future. Perry gave an overview of the Marianas tourism industry and shared examples of how students can volunteer while still in high school or participate in tourism events and explore industry career paths through various public and private programs. Aranda shared about the role of the state tour-

ism office, with emphasis on marketing and promotions conducted in the Marianas major source markets, as well as annual signature events organized by the MVA.

"It was my first-hand experience as a waitstaff that taught me the value and importance of tourism," said Aranda, a graduate of Saipan Southern High School who started working in the industry while still in high school. "My interest in the field of hospitality and tourism has led me to pursue a career at MVA, to further my knowledge in an industry that is vital to our economy."

Following the presentations, students were quizzed and received branded giveaways.

MTEC's Education Outreach program targets the 5th, 8th, and 10th graders each year on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in partnership with the MVA. The presentations are also sponsored by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Ernst & Young, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and T Galleria.

MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority will host the MY WAVE Club Tourism Summit on Jan. 23, 2020, for an estimated 300-400 school MY WAVE Club students at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

For more information about the Tourism Summit, contact Martin Duenas or Aranda at the MVA at 664-3200/3201, or email [mduenas@mymarianas.com](mailto:mduenas@mymarianas.com) or [jaranda@mymarianas.com](mailto:jaranda@mymarianas.com). (PR)



School principal Jonathan Aguon, second from right, students, and faculty of Da'ok Academy welcome the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Nov. 21, 2019.



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## NMI lawmakers in Guam to address cyberthreats

SINAJAÑA, Guam—Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) and Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), together with Guam Sens. Wil Castro and Kelly Marsh Taitano, wrapped up Day 2 of meetings centered around cyber-security, cyber-terrorism, the dark web and critical infrastructure issues.

This come soon after the two CNMI lawmakers met on Day 1 with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, Speaker Tina Muna Barnes and Castro to continue talks on revitalizing the Marianas Working Group to strengthen the CNMI and Guam's posture regarding homeland security and public safety.

Blanco and Castro also met Department of Defense and Federal Bureau of Investigation officials and executives from Docomo Pacific to talk about current and emerging threats in telecommunications

and smart systems.

"Building resiliency with all stakeholders in the region is a chief goal of ours," said Blanco.

Docomo Pacific discussed the vital state of telecommunications security in the Marianas, while the FBI gave a view into the lengths hackers and scammers go to stealing vital personal information. DOD, through the Joint Region Marianas, provided insights into how hackers are able to infiltrate everyday appliances like televisions, air-conditioners and other "smart" machineries.

"It is encouraging to see the military's continued focus to keep our region secure and to working with local and regional governments in addressing cyber threats," said Castro.

Yesterday's meetings were with Guam Homeland Security and Guam Power Au-

thority officials. The Marianas Regional Fusion Center briefed the CNMI lawmakers of future plans and opportunities that include the CNMI's fusion center node as well as FirstNet, a federally funded interoperable public safety broadband network.

"It is important to build these bridges in order that we may create policy and submit federal funding opportunities that strengthens our Marianas. It is well established that a regional approach is best when addressing both manmade and natural threats," said Castro.

"We are connected in more ways than one and have been for a long time. Cyberthreats to the CNMI are the same for Guam, so working toward sharing information and resources is not only our way of life in the Marianas, it is working smart to maximize limited resources," said Taitano. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) and Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), together with Guam Sens. Wil Castro and Kelly Marsh Taitano, are briefed on cyberthreats in the Marianas region.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) and Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) pose with Guam Sens. Wil Castro and Kelly Marsh Taitano and other Guam officials after a briefing on cyber-security, cyber-terrorism, the dark web and critical infrastructure issues.

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## Chamber to present 3 new awards

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be presenting three new awards during its 2019 Business Person of the Year Gala on Jan. 25, 2020, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Regency Ballroom.

Aside from the 2019 Business Person of the Year award, the organization will also present awards for the Chamber Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, and Non-Profit of the Year to "honor other organizations/businesses in our Chamber membership and community," said Chamber president Velma Palacios.

Nominees for the 2019 Small Business of the Year award should have fewer than 25 employees or less than \$1 million in gross revenue and must have a business license and operating on Saipan for at least one year.

To be eligible for the 2019 Nonprofit of the Year award, the non-profit must have local or federal 501(c) documentation, has been operating on Saipan for at least one year, and services rendered to Saipan residents.

Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo earlier named the three nominees for the prestigious 2019 Business Per-

son of the Year: Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh, The Shack owner Glen Hunter, and J.C. Tenorio Enterprises vice president Roman "Bo" Palacios.

Other awards the Chamber gives out yearly are its Saipan Young Professional of the Year Award and Chamber Member of the Year Award.

Palacios invites the community to attend the 2019 Business Person of the Year Gala on Jan. 25 next year.

"The theme is 'Roaring 20's,' where we hope to start the decade strong with lively music, fun, and celebration for all our Chamber members who provide for our economy and our people. Proceeds of the evening will directly support the programs and activities of the Chamber, such as its annual scholarships, educational workshops, employment training seminars, military vessel welcomes, and Saipan Young Professionals activities," she said.

"We are grateful to our Chamber members and their continued support in 2019. This event is our way to also give thanks to all our members. We encourage everyone to come out and join in the celebration," Palacios added.

The Chamber now has 142 members.



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CCVI Dumatsuri Dance Group  
Saipan Ice & Water  
Herman's Bakery  
DCCA Arts Council



## 'Defense bill benefits Marianas'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2020 Defense authorization yesterday that, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), has several provisions of specific benefit to the CNMI, including funding for the Tinian divert airfield, help for insular area small businesses, and paid parental leave for federal employees.

The NDAA, or National Defense Authorization Act, also raises military pay by 3%.

A total of \$316 million is authorized in the bill for the Air Force Divert Airfield Project on Tinian over a three-year period. In 2020, the first year, \$10 million will go to fuel tanks and a pipeline and hydrant system. Twenty-five million dollars will be used for a parking apron. And another \$10 million is for general airfield development.

The House-approved bill, also, includes language that Sablan offered allowing students in associate degree programs to apply for a new technology and national se-

curity fellowship. The paid fellowships will place college students in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in the U.S. Department of Defense or congressional offices.

### » 12-week paid parental leave for federal workers

Sablan successfully blocked a provision in the House-passed defense bill that only allowed American-owned or -operated companies with a national security waiver to

be awarded telecommunications contracts for Defense Department facilities in the U.S. Pacific territories. The provision would "place well-established, reputable businesses in the U.S. Pacific territories at an unfair disadvantage and stifle competition for DoD telecom-

munications services and equipment contracts across the Pacific," Sablan told the House Armed Services Committee in an Aug. 29 letter on the issue and that provision was removed from the bill.

Section 875 of the Defense bill extends to all the insular areas a provision that currently allows federal agencies to double the value of a contract awarded to a Puerto Rico business. Sablan is a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 3428, to make this improvement for all insular small businesses.

The House also agreed to give all federal employees 12 weeks of paid parental leave in the case of birth, adoption, or fostering. This has been a top Democratic priority and it means the nation's largest employer, the federal government, now provide this key benefit. (PR)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 40th birthday, Audie! May the year ahead be filled with every good thing life has to offer. God bless! We love you. Greetings come from your loving Marafios.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**DATE: December 13, 2019**

**NOTICE:** The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IX, regarding the repair and new construction of private homes on Saipan and Tinian within Coastal Areas of Particular Concern under the Permanent Housing Construction Program. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at <https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PHC-FEMA-Consistency-Determination.pdf>.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at [FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp).

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.34. Given the emergency nature of the proposed activity, DCRM is shortening the public comment period to five (5) days, starting on December 13, 2019 and ending on December 17, 2019. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



## PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT Request for Proposals ADDENDUM NO. 1



### RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-011

### "MEASURED LAND & MARINE SURVEYS OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT'S (CRM) DESIGNATED AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN" COASTAL HAZARDS, SHORELINES, WETLANDS & STREAMS, PORTS & INDUSTRIAL, & LAGOON, CORAL REEF, & SEAGRASS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

**December 11, 2019**

This Addendum is issued to amend a section in the Scope of Work and to reschedule the proposal submission deadline and opening for on-island and off-island proposers.

**General:** Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).

➤ Under PROPOSALS in the Scope of Work to delete: *The ideal proposal will include a schedule that can achieve measures land and marine surveys by December 13, 2019* is changed to read: ***The ideal proposal will include a schedule that can achieve measures land and marine surveys by March 31, 2020.***

➤ Sealed proposals for this project shall be submitted with **one (1) original and five (5) copies** to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, December 13, 2019 is changed to read no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 13, 2020** and must be marked "RFP20-BECQ/DCRM-011".

➤ Proposals submitted by firms outside of the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official postal service of a foreign country by **December 13, 2019 is changed to read January 13, 2020** and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K. Saipan MP, 96950 and the proposal documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than the close of business, December 24, 2019 is changed to read no later than the close of business, January 23, 2020.**

➤ Proposers outside of the Commonwealth **MUST** notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, if they intend to submit a proposal in order to receive an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent including name, contact details, and a statement that they intend to submit a proposal may be sent in any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to [a.magofna@dof.gov.mp](mailto:a.magofna@dof.gov.mp) but **MUST** be received **no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, December 13, 2019 is changed to read no later than 09:30 a.m., local time, Chamorro Standard Time, January 13, 2020.** All prospective applicants who send their Notice of Intent by this date will receive a copy of all questions from other prospective applicants and the response.

**Please Note: All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.**

**The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.**

**The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.**

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S





### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Cohort 12 of the Framingham State University (through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute) will be graduating tomorrow, Dec. 14, 2019, at the Marianas High School cafeteria, starting at 4pm. The cohort will be earning their master's degree in Education, with a focus on international education. The graduates had their Baccalaureate Mass last Dec. 7, 2019, at the San Jose Church in Oleai. "You are never given a dream without also being given the power to make it true."—Richard Bach

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Bougainville votes for independence from PNG

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—The South Pacific region of Bougainville voted overwhelmingly to become the world's newest nation by gaining independence from Papua New Guinea, results showed Wednesday.

Bougainville Referendum Commission Chairman Bertie Ahern was cheered when he announced that more than 98% of valid ballots favored independence. The only other option in the vote was greater autonomy from Papua New Guinea.

The referendum is nonbinding, and independence would then need to be negotiated between leaders from Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. The final say would then go to lawmakers in the Papua New Guinea Parliament. The process of becoming a separate nation could take years to achieve.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape's of-

fice said he was out of town and was not available for comment.

Around 85% of eligible voters cast more than 181,000 ballots in two weeks of voting.

The referendum is a key part of a 2001 peace agreement that ended a civil war in which at least 15,000 people died in the cluster of islands to the east of the Papua New Guinea mainland.

The violence in Bougainville began in the late 1980s, triggered by conflict over an enormous opencast copper mine at Panguna. The mine was a huge export earner for Papua New Guinea, but many in Bougainville felt they received no benefit and resented the pollution and disruption of their traditional way of living.

The mine has remained shut since the conflict. Some believe it could provide a revenue source for Bougainville should it become independent.

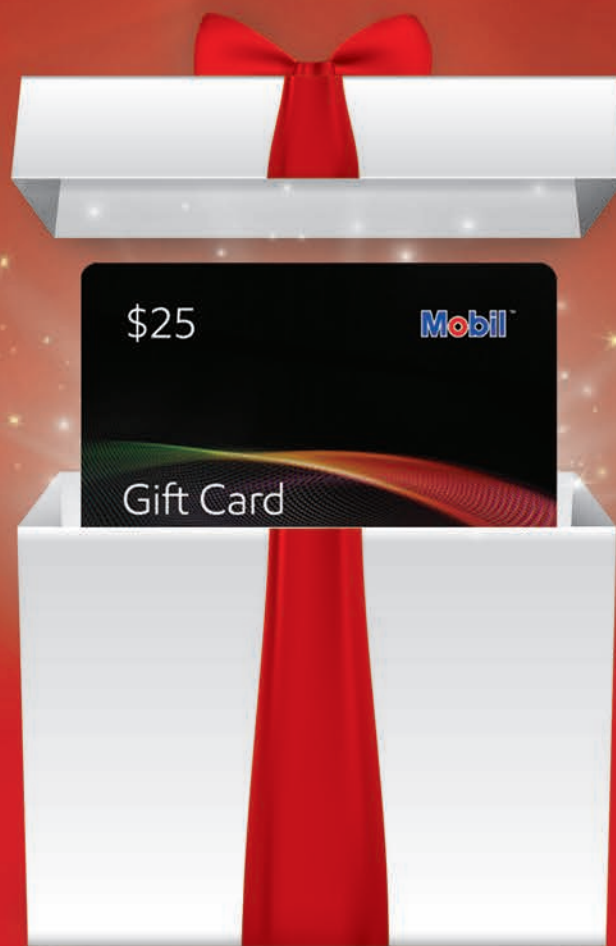
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# Opinion

Hafa Adali

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Answers needed on shooting at Florida naval base

**F**ormer Lakewood High track star Mohammed “Mo” Haitham surprised his family in St. Petersburg, Fla., by showing up for Thanksgiving. The 19-year-old Navy airman won’t be there for Christmas. He was one of three sailors killed Friday at the Naval Air Station Pensacola by a Saudi Air Force officer undergoing flight training at the base. The tragedy raises serious questions about security on U.S. military installations and the arrangements for hosting foreign nationals in American military settings.

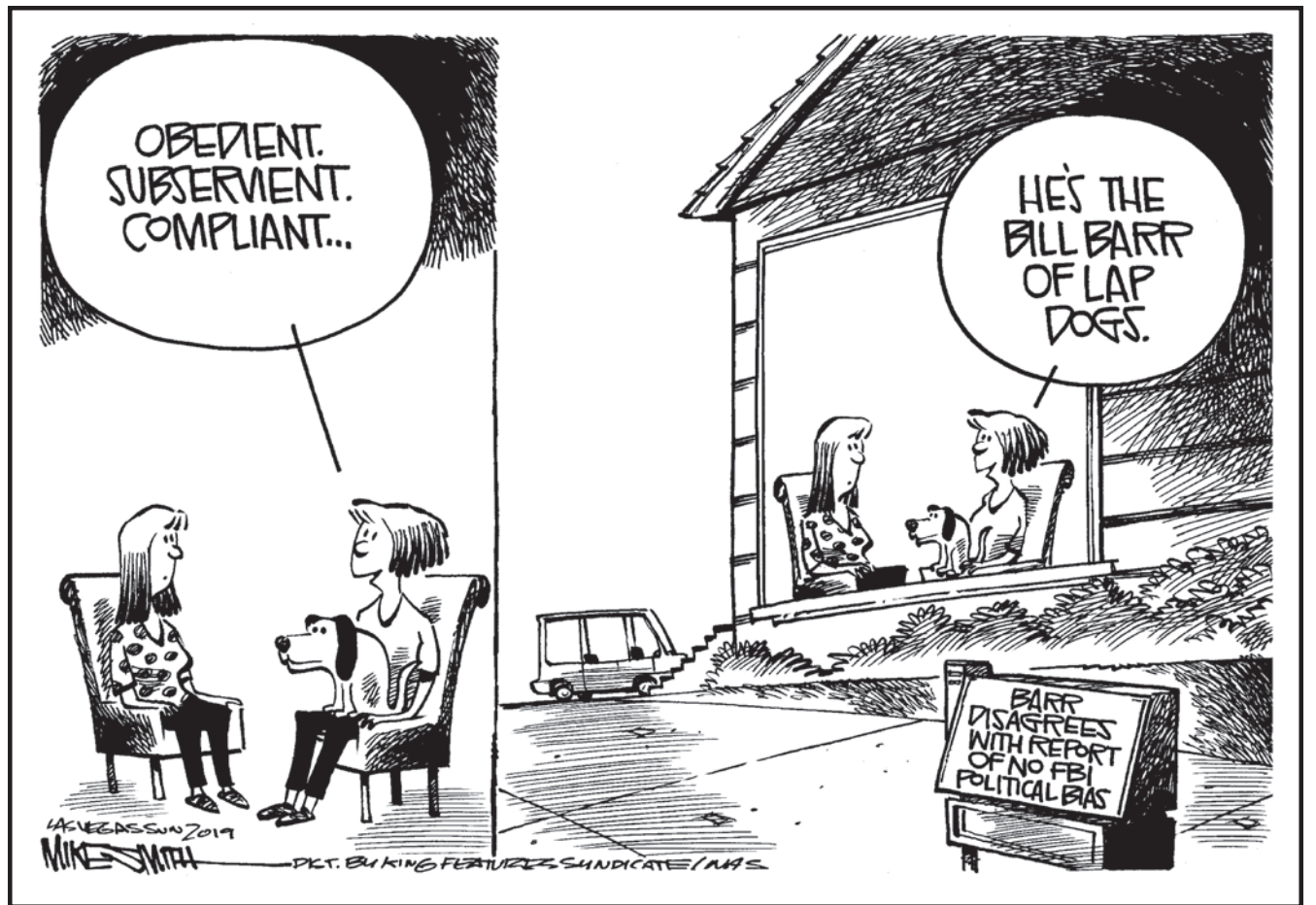
Investigators are trying to establish whether 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani of the Royal Saudi Air Force acted alone or as part of a conspiracy in Friday’s rampage in a classroom on the base, which killed Haitham, 23-year-old U.S. Naval Academy graduate Joshua Kaleb Watson and Airman Apprentice Cameron Scott Walters, 21, of Richmond Hill, Ga., and left eight others injured. Alshamrani was later killed by a sheriff’s deputy responding to the scene.

While authorities have not suggested a motive, the FBI said it is investigating the attack under the presumption it was an act of terrorism. The few details released so far include several troubling events involving Alshamrani preceding the attack. Returning to the United States from a break home in February, Alshamrani was described by friends and colleagues as having become more religious. He reported to be “infuriated” with a base instructor who poked fun at him in April, prompting Alshamrani to file a complaint. The night before the attack, Alshamrani reportedly showed videos of mass shootings at a dinner party. Authorities are investigating whether the gunman is connected to a Twitter account that contained a posting shortly before the shooting that was critical of U.S. support for Israel. Defense Secretary Mark Esper also confirmed Sunday that several friends of the gunman were detained as part of the investigation, and that “one or two were filming” the shooting.

These might be isolated events that have no bearing on the tragedy. But they raise flags over Alshamrani’s recent experience in Pensacola, and they raise questions not only about him but the oversight of the military training program, which enables thousands of military members from foreign allies to train on American bases. Did U.S. or Saudi authorities receive any warnings about Alshamrani? Did his Saudi superiors hear or report any concerns? Who were the witnesses at the dinner party, and did they report the videos at the time? While Alshamrani used a handgun he bought legally in the United States, why was a foreign national in possession of the weapon when rules at the nation’s military bases generally prohibit service members who are not security personnel from carrying personal firearms around the post?

These military training programs serve a vital national interest, sensitizing foreign nationals to American ideals and creating relationships with the next generation of allied military leaders. But America’s service men and women are

See ANSWERS on Next Page



## Designated piñata

**W**hatever will the government, the retirees, medical referral, Department of Education, Rota and Tinian, government employees, and many others do for funds if the casino haters win their battle and cause the destruction of this biggest single component of the tourism industry? What will the haters do to replace the million they so quickly blow through up on the hill paying for pet projects and boondoggles that bring in those votes come election time? Where will they find a replacement for their favorite “designated piñata” (credit to Zaldy Dandan), Imperial Pacific? I suggest they won’t find one and have no clue as to how to generate one measly percent of the funds that have come rolling in to government coffers from this favored revenue source. Do they have a replacement plan?

Of course they don’t. They have no clue. From what I’ve seen of their results on the hill to date, the minority bloc party couldn’t organize a block party without help from their kids and a grant from the federal government to pay for it and give them “guidelines” on how to accomplish it. Does that mean I am a big fan and booster of the Republican Party? Not really. I haven’t seen an efficient plan or a well-executed economic strategy come from them either, but at least they don’t want to destroy the one large scale money maker they did bring into the game—casino gaming. And they are trying to move us forward instead of backward.

So where does that leave the rest of us who rely on one or more of the above groups that, in turn, rely on the taxes, fees, penalties, etc. etc. that come flowing out of the casino licensee? Broke. As in without a pot if the minority bloc haters get their way.

I submit that they know there is no replacement at hand and that is what drives their zeal to destroy it. Do they have a plan? Yes, I think they do have a plan to keep the CNMI economy flat on its back and certainly keep it far from reaching financial independence. But that is a theme for another time. Today we need to look at what our realistic alternatives are.

We dragged our feet and waited too long to profit greatly from the now old-hat marijuana for-profit revolution. The quick and agile states and countries have already made the lion’s share of the money that is to be made from that income source. There are so many other, closer, places customers can go for legal pot now that we are out of the running for making substantial money from it. Likewise, in the decade-plus since the demise of the garment industry, leadership here has dragged its feet and done nothing—zero, nada, zilch—to entice another industry to come here except gaming. Without the diversity that a two- or three-pronged economy brings, there will be no long-term stability. Our CNMI economy will continue to limp along paycheck to paycheck, like a laborer down on his luck, if we don’t find a synergistic new industry or two.

So much for the faster roads to prosperity. What we need des-

### SOUR GRAPES By BRUCE BATEMAN Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

perately to do now is forge a talented team, develop a strong pitch and go out and slog until we find and sell a new industry on coming here. As long as the U.S. feds keep our labor pool shackled, we can’t attract a labor-intensive industry but we have some other attributes like major tax advantages that might draw a service or financial industry to us. We have the stability (sort of) of the U.S. courts and monetary systems, we have great weather much of the time. There are many other positives but one thing is for sure—those industries aren’t going to come looking for us, we have to go to them, banging on doors, attending a wide range of foreign and domestic development trade shows, and networking to find that right industry that matches our attributes.

There is one other possibility, we can put on our thinking caps and come up with a new way to use the “loophole” that brought us the very profitable garment business—our ability to import duty-free into the giant U.S. market. If we do none of the above, we will continue to stagnate. This is too nice a place with too many talented people and too many positive advantages to settle for that. Let’s get busy finding ways to support instead of tear down our casino business and let’s find someone to spearhead a well-funded search for another industry or two that is a match with our best features. That is the path to prosperity for all the people of the CNMI. Blindly trying to tear down the casino industry is a lose-lose proposition. Ignore those niggling nabobs who would try to take us down that destructive path.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

■■■

“When you’re in a small boat, you can see who’s paddling hard and who’s looking around.”

—Ev Williams

“Gambling is pretty much like liquor, you can make it illegal, but you can’t make it unpopular.”

—Unknown



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**‘Not yet, already’**

Some unusual events turned fireworks as the year draws to a close. It includes the FBI raid of the governor’s office, screaming headline for his investigation, the steady loss of taxes from IPI, and the resignation of its CEO.

Interesting the hot blast of shift from expectations of the joy of the season to troubled events that marred life on the islands. Let’s rein in the sense of peace, joy and tranquility of the season.

The troubling tidings wrought troubled curiosity while dead silence pans out across the archipelago as the decibels of the unusual events fade into the sunset.

In short, I view the planned investigation misguided when mirrored against the commission of crimes per pertinent constitutional provisions. Do you have exculpatory evidence of wrongdoing by the titular head? What’s his crime?

Individual opinions of alleged corruption based on “he said” or “she said” aren’t factual but personal opinions. Moreover, the accused must be rendered his “due process rights.” We can’t settle for pleasant fiction!

As I assess what may have gone wrong, I came across two well-informed letters sizing up disappointing events here and what needs to be done. The letters came from former NMI Supreme Court justice Jose S. Dela Cruz and Daniel Quitugua.

Indeed, it’s all in the palm of our hands but somehow we repeat the same mistakes, time and again. We vote for the same people who hardly have any perception why they’re in public office. How about learning to mean what you say and say what you mean? It’s in the palm of our hands!

**Moneyless**

In the meantime, I’ve shifted to the slow lane, having turned septuagenarian. It doesn’t mean I have given up keeping my ears to

the ground. Nah!

For as long as intellectual acuity is intact, I’d check events as they unfold and scribble my piece forthwith.

This week the focus is on local revenues for current obligations. Reportedly, there’s the obvious insufficiency of funds for most needs. But there’s the unpredictable swing of revenue generation we must contend with quarterly.

News has it that PSS is short some \$7 million for its needs. It raises the query: What would be the cumulative fund shortage when you add CHC and other agencies?

While I’m optimistic prudent spending should pull us through these difficult times, we still must set our sight on other alternatives to raise more funds for vital needs. Pray and hope that revenue generation doesn’t take a long hike south.

This is where the term “leadership” comes into full play. Let’s navigate the problematic fund shortage to pay for mounting obligations. Could this challenge be met with “can-do” commitment?

Indeed, it is a challenge and more often than not it only requires simple common sense like buckling down to realistic disposition of what we have in the coffers.

It obligates so-called leadership to engage trashing excess baggage where necessary. It only requires resolve to do it right!

**Might!**

Appalling the discrepancy in salaries for public officials versus the rest. It’s a difference of some \$47,000 per annum. Goes to show it was done with arrogance of “might is right.”

The fact doesn’t change the obvious difference and you wonder what standard was used to strengthen poverty among already hard-hit employees. How did this factual hardship escape the

in people with terminal illnesses?

One way to answer that question is to explore whether, at these prices, Paula’s chemotherapy medicines bring good value. Health care experts define value as the amount of benefit brought per dollar spent. In the jargon of health economics, value reflects how much you have to spend on, say, a medicine to produce one year of high-quality life.

Using this version of value, Paula’s medicines don’t measure up. While Paula’s medicines cost about \$200,000 per year, the amount her insurance company spends on those medicines to bring people like her an extra year of life is more like hundreds of thousands of dollars more per year. That’s because each of her chemotherapies slightly increases the chance her cancer will stay under control for at least a while longer.

Is it worthwhile to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in hopes of extending Paula’s life by a year?

In the United Kingdom, the answer would be no. That nation’s government-run health care system has established limits on how much companies can charge for drugs or other treatments based on the benefits they offer; treatments exceeding those thresholds don’t qualify for reimbursement. For drugs like Paula’s, that threshold is the equivalent of about \$62,000. If Paula and I lived in the U.K., and the drug companies refused to lower the price of her chemotherapies, we would be on our own to pay for many such medications.

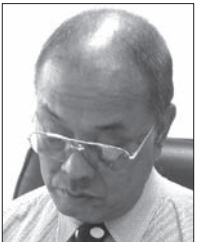
Many people may recoil at the seemingly cold indifference of the U.K. system, with bureaucrats deciding death-panel style on what the price of my wife’s life should be. But there’s another way to view the situation.

By demanding value from health care interventions, the U.K. forces businesses such as pharmaceutical companies to make effective products—and price their products based on those benefits. Right now, the U.S. Medicare program can’t legally negotiate medication prices. Private insurers in the U.S., hesitant to appear stingier than Medicare, rarely push back at the high cost of chemotherapy either.

The result is runaway costs. Medication costs are often two or three times higher in the U.S. than in most other developed countries. That’s because drug companies lower the price of their products in those markets to meet value-based reimburse-

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*

nimble minds of policymakers?

It’s the quality of life of families, isn’t it? And you have the gall to drop more money into your pockets overlooking the needs of nearly 15,000 employees literally struggling with poverty income? Isn’t this hardship founded on arrogance we must critically ponder next year?

**Unsolicited**

It’s comical attempts to meddle in the disposition of public land by a disoriented policymaker. For instance, it is rumored that Rep. Roman Benavente wants to transfer authority of land disposition from DPL to DLNR via statutory imposition.

It should dawn on our illustrious lawmaker the simple dictates of the concept of supremacy of laws. Statutory laws can’t amend nor rein over constitutional law! Isn’t land disposition constitutionally mandated?

You must partake fostering stability of laws, sir! We’ve gone past adolescence! Your whimsical agenda doesn’t in anyway alter superiority of constitutional over statutory laws.

**The high price of extending my wife’s life**

Doctors told my wife there was “very little chance” her breast cancer would return.

But five years later, three months after Paula’s 51st birthday, I typed “prognosis of metastatic breast cancer” into my browser and through tears read the search results: “dismal prognosis,” “incurable,” “median survival of three years.” Paula’s doctors urged us not to despair—there were great new medicines available they hoped could slow down the tumor. And now, three years later, her cancer has not progressed.

As a husband, I’m obviously ecstatic.

As a physician who studies health economics, I find myself wondering: Can we, as a society, afford to pay for the kind of medicines that have kept my wife’s cancer at bay?

To put this question into perspective, consider the price of Paula’s chemotherapy medications. She takes a pill called Ibrance that costs \$10,000 a month. She also receives two monthly injections: Faslodex, at \$5,000 a month, and Xgeva, a veritable bargain at \$2,200 a month. Add it all up, and the annual cost of Paula’s chemotherapy is more than \$200,000.

Almost all of this is covered by our insurance, which is great for us but raises a critical question for the country as a whole: How much should society be willing to pay to stave off death

**SENATOR**

From Page 14

this nation’s best and brightest, and their security must be the paramount concern. Now it falls to a country whose citizens accounted for 15 of the 19 hijackers on Sept. 11 and which tried to mislead the world about its involvement in the killing of Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi last year to be candid and forthcoming about this latest murderous act. The Trump administration should insist on a full accounting from the Saudis as it reviews the vetting process for foreign military training. A 19-year-old Navy airman from St. Petersburg should not be at risk of being killed at a base in his home state by a member of another country’s armed forces.

(c)2019 Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Fla.)

By **PETER UBEL**

Los Angeles Times



*Peter Ubel is a physician and behavioral scientist at Duke University and author of Sick to Debt.*

ment thresholds. In fact, after the U.K. rejected Ibrance for not returning a good value, the company lowered the price for the U.K. market.

How can we demand fairer prices—prices that reflect a medication’s actual value? Currently, when new drugs, devices or procedures come to market, Medicare coverage is based solely on a determination of benefit—does the new intervention help patients more than it harms them—without any regard to whether those benefits accrue at a reasonable price.

Medicare should switch to value-based reimbursement, with coverage decisions based on both benefits and costs. Such a change in reimbursement would have broader effects on our health care economy because when Medicare takes the lead in revising reimbursement, private insurers typically follow.






Alternatively, we could adopt what policy experts call “external reference pricing,” whereby our reimbursement rates are pegged to the average price in other developed countries.

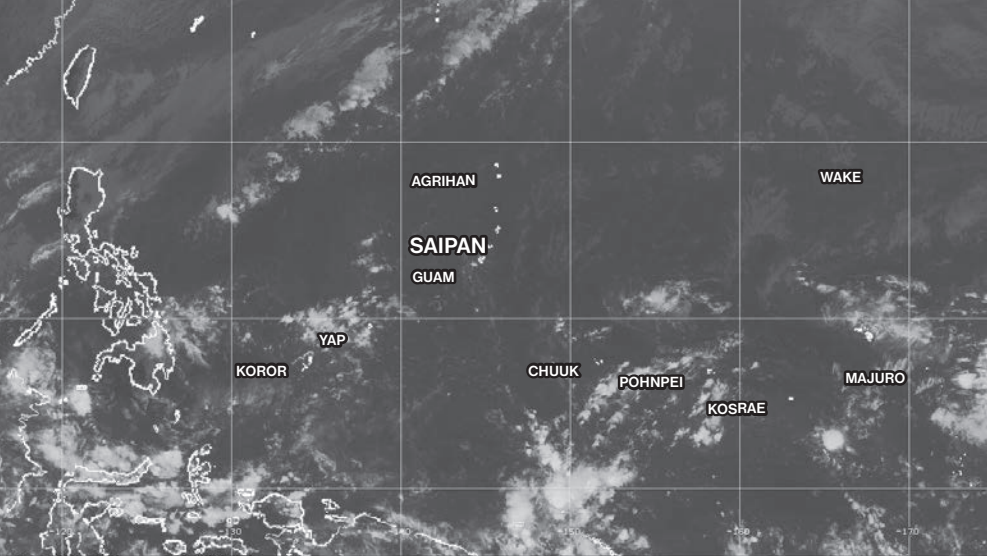
Under such a system, we wouldn’t have to create a politically tenuous commission to decide on health care value. We could just leverage the negotiating tactics of other countries to combat high prices in the U.S. By one estimate, we could pay three times the price of drugs in the U.K. and still save 40% on the cost of medications.

I view my wife’s life as priceless. But her chemotherapy drugs are too expensive. Congress or private insurers should pursue legislation that requires health care prices to reflect health benefits. It’s the only way our loved ones can get the health care they deserve at a price we can afford.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy during the day.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 5:58 AM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few tweaks made to the forecast. A dry weather pattern will prevail through the week and the weekend with 700 mb relative humidity remaining below 50 percent and sometimes below 25 percent. Weak trade-wind disturbances may bring a few clouds at times but partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are all that is expected through the forecast. High pressure building out over the Northwest Pacific will help cause an increase in wind speeds with breezy conditions Friday through the weekend as winds will be between 20 and 30 mph during the daytime.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Sunny	86° / 77°			
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	85° / 81°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°			
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 25°			
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 66°			
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 74°			
London	Partly Cloudy	46° / 41°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 55°			
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 71°			
New York	Showers	49° / 47°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°			
Paris	Showers	46° / 46°			
Busan	Sunny	54° / 41°			
Rome	Rain	57° / 43°			
Salem	Rain	53° / 48°			
San Francisco	Showers	56° / 49°			
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 25°			
Tokyo	Sunny	61° / 43°			
Washington, DC	Showers	45° / 43°			

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:09 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.56
9:14 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.74
2:35 PM	LOW TIDE		1.05
7:26 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.74

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:11 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	-	8:10 AM	7:45 PM
Sunday	-	9:07 AM	8:45 PM
Monday	-	10:01 AM	9:45 PM
Tuesday	-	10:52 AM	10:45 PM

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via GUM	
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily	
UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6	
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily	
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6	
HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN	
OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily						
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		



FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Construction Carpenter  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 350  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$15.48 to \$28.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$23.22 to \$43.42 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment
  - study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to prepare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required
  - measure and mark cutting lines on materials, using a ruler, pencil, chalk, and marking gauge
  - shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power saws
  - install structures or fixtures, such as windows, frames, floorings, trim, or hardware, using carpenters' hand or power tools
    - verify trueness of structure, using plumb bob and level
    - select and order lumber or other required materials
    - arrange for subcontractors to deal with special areas, such as heating or electrical wiring work
    - maintain records, document actions, and present written progress reports
    - build or repair cabinets, doors, frameworks, floors, or other wooden fixtures used in buildings, using woodworking machines, carpenters' hand tools, or power tools
    - erect scaffolding or ladders for assembling or ladders for assembling structure above ground levels
  - inspect ceiling or floor tile, wall coverings, siding, glass, or woodwork to detect broken or damaged structures
  - assemble and fasten materials to make frameworks or props, using hand tools and wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue
  - remove damaged or defective parts or sections of structures and repair or replace, using hand tools
  - finish surfaces of woodwork or wallboard in houses or buildings, using paint, hand tools, or paneling
  - apply shock-absorbing, sound-deadening, or decorative paneling to ceilings or walls
  - cover subfloors with building paper to keep out moisture and lay hardwood, parquet, or wood-strip-block floors by nailing floors to
  - subfloor or cementing them to mastic or asphalt base
  - fill cracks or other defects in plaster or plasterboard and sand patch, using patching plaster, trowel, and sanding tool
  - perform minor plumbing, welding or concrete mixing work
  - prepare cost estimates for clients and employers
  - construct forms or chutes for pouring concrete
  - work with or remove hazardous material

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Carpenter is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Construction Laborer  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 95  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$11.03 to \$15.00 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$16.55 to \$22.50 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Control traffic passing near, in, or around work zones
  - clean or prepare construction sites to eliminate possible hazards
  - signal equipment operators to facilitate alignment, movement, or adjustments of machinery, or materials
  - read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities
  - load, unload, or identify building materials, machinery, or tools, distributing them to the appropriate locations, according to project plans or specifications
  - measure, mark, or record openings or distances to layout areas where construction work will be performed
  - dig ditches or trenches, backfill excavations, or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels, pneumatic tampers, or rakes
  - mix, pour, or spread concrete, using portable cement mixers
  - tend pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools, machinery, or equipment or to heat or move materials such as asphalt
  - erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps or other temporary structures
  - provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, plasterers or masons
  - lubricate, clean, or repair machinery, equipment and tools
  - mix ingredients to create compounds for covering or cleaning surfaces
  - grind, scrape, sand or polish surfaces, such as concrete, marble, terrazzo, or wood flooring, using abrasive tools or machines
  - position, join, align or seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes
  - tend machines that pump concrete, grout, cement, sand, plaster, or stucco through spray guns for application to ceilings or walls
  - spray materials, such as water, sand, steam, vinyl, paint, or stucco, though hoses to clean, coat, or seal surfaces
  - apply caulking compounds by hand or caulking guns to protect against entry of water or air
  - mop, brush, or spread paints, cleaning solutions, or other compounds over surfaces to clean them or to provide protection
  - perform the activities required of green certified construction practices, such as implementing waste management procedures, identifying materials for reuse, or installing erosion or sedimentation control mechanisms
  - apply weather-stripping to reduce energy loss

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Laborer is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment.

Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Crane and Tower Operator  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 5  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$21.52 to \$32.28 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$32.28 to \$48.42 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload
  - Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, cherry pickers, electromagnets, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads
  - Inspect and adjust crane mechanisms or lifting accessories tom prevent malfunctions or damage
  - Inspect cables or grappling devices for wear and install or replace cables, as needed
  - Direct helpers engaged in placing blocking or outrigging under cranes
  - Clean, lubricate, and maintain mechanisms such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices, making repairs as necessary
  - Load or unload bundles from trucks or move containers to storage bins, using moving equipment
  - Review daily work or delivery schedules to determine orders, sequences of deliveries, or special loading instructions
  - Inspect bundle packaging for conformance to regulations or customer requirements and remove and batch packaging tickets
  - Direct truck drivers backing vehicles into loading bays and cover, uncover, or secure loads for delivery
  - Wight bundles, using floor scales, and record weights for company records

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 24 months of on-the-job experience as a Crane and Tower Operator is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Electrician  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 170  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$18.92 to \$28.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$27.78 to \$43.42 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes
  - connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components
  - test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system
  - use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps
  - inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes
  - prepare sketches or follow blueprints to determine the location of wiring or equipment and to ensure conformance to building with codes
  - diagnose malfunctioning systems, apparatus, or components, using test equipment and hand tools to locate the cause of a breakdown and correct the problem
  - work from ladders, scaffolds, or roofs to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures
  - advise management on whether continued operation of equipment could be hazardous
  - maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations
  - place conduit, pipes, or tubing, inside designated partitions, walls, or other concealed areas, and pull insulated wires or cables through the conduit to complete circuits through boxes
  - direct or train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures
  - repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools
  - install ground leads and connect power cables to equipment, such as motors
  - assemble, install, test, or maintain electrical or electronic wiring, equipment, appliances, apparatus, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools
  - perform business management duties, such as maintaining records or files, preparing reports, or ordering supplies or equipment
  - fasten small metal or plastic boxes to walls to house electrical switches or outlets
  - construct or fabricate parts, using hand tools according to specifications
  - perform physically demanding tasks, such as digging trenches to lay conduit or moving or lifting heavy objects
  - provide assistance during emergencies by operating floodlights or generators, placing flares, or driving needed vehicles
  - provide preliminary sketches or cost estimates for materials or services

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 24 months of on-the-job experience as an Electrician is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or

where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment.

Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Mason  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 150  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$14.92 to \$22.00 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$22.38 to \$33.00 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed
  - set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them
  - spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float
  - monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process
  - mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straight edge
  - signal truck driver to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete, and move chute to direct concrete on forms
  - direct the casting of the concrete and supervise laborers who use shovels or special tools to spread it
    - produce rough concrete surface, using broom
    - apply hardening and sealing compounds to cure surface of concrete, and waterproof or restore surface
    - operate power vibrator to compact concrete
    - install anchor bolts, steel plates, door sills and other fixtures in freshly poured concrete or pattern or trowel the surface to provide a decorative finish
    - wet surface to prepare for bonding, fill hole and cracks with grout or slurry, and smooth, using trowel
    - waterproof or restore concrete surfaces, using appropriate compounds
    - mix cement, sand and water to produce concrete, grout or slurry, using hoe, trowel, tamper, scraper, or concrete-mixing machine
    - chip, scrape, and grind high spots, ridges, and rough projections to finish concrete, using pneumatic chisels, power grinders, or hand tools
    - cut out damaged areas, fill holes for reinforcing rods, and position reinforcing rod to repair concrete using power saw and drill
    - wet concrete surface, and rub with stone to smooth surface and obtain specified finish
    - clean chipped area, using wire brush, and feel and observe surface to determine if it is rough or uneven
    - build wooden molds, and clamp molds around area to be repaired, using hand tools
    - fabricate concrete beams, columns and panels
    - polish surface, using polishing or surfacing machine
    - cut metal division strips, and press them into terrazzo base so that top edges form desired design or pattern
    - push roller over surface to embed chips in surface

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 12 months of on-the-job experience as a Mason is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Plumber  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 200  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$16.52 to \$27.00 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$24.78 to \$40.50 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Assemble pipe sections, tubing, or fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment
  - keep records of work assignments
  - fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks
  - direct helpers engaged in pipe cutting, pre-assembly, or installation of plumbing systems or components
  - maintain or repair plumbing by replacing defective washers, replacing or mending broken pipes, or opening clogged drains
  - locate and mark the position of pie installations, connections, passage holes, or fixtures in structures, using measuring instruments such as rulers or levels
  - measure, cut, thread or bend pipe to required angle, using hand or power tools or machines, such as pipe cutters, pipe-threading machines, or pipe-bending machines
  - provide blueprints, building codes, or specifications to determine work details or procedures
  - anchor steel supports from ceiling joists to hold pipes in place
  - estimate time, material, or labor costs for use in project plans
  - install underground storm, sanitary, or water piping systems, extending piping as needed to connect fixtures and plumbing
  - inspect structures to assess material or equipment needs, to establish the sequence if pipe installations, or to plan installation around
    - obstructions, such as electrical wiring
    - install green plumbing equipment, such as faucet flow restrictors, dual-flush or pressure-assisted flush toilets, or tankless hot water heaters green task statement
    - cut openings in structure to accommodate pipes or pipe fittings, using hand or power tools
    - weld small pipes or special piping, using specialized techniques, equipment, or materials, such as computer-assisted welding or microchip fabrication
    - install alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting systems or gray water reuse systems
    - recommend energy or water saving products, such as low-flow faucets or shower heads, water-saving toilets, or high-efficiency hot water heaters

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
High school diploma or above. 24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. There are three rotating shifts per day: (A) Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (B) Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. (C) Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three shifts

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide optional housing at no cost per week, during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by laws.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. Travel subsistence starts with the rate of \$12.46 per day up to a maximum of \$55.00 with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing, and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**THREE-FOURTHS GUARANTEE**  
Workers will be offered employment for a total number of work hours equal to at least three fourths of the workdays of the total period that begins with the first workday after the arrival of the worker at the place of employment or the advertised contractual fist date of need, whichever is later, and ends on the expiration date specified in the work contract or in its extensions, if any.

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC**  
**JOB TITLE:** Welder  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 70  
**OPENING DATE:** December 09, 2019  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$18.49 to \$28.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$27.74 to \$43.42 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2020 and ending on January 30, 2021.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Palace – Saipan, CPL Derence Jack Road, Orchid Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

- JOB DUTIES**
- Weld components in flat, vertical, or overhead positions
  - operate safety equipment and apply safety habits
  - lay out, position, align and secure parts and assemblies prior to assembly, using straight edges, combination squares, calipers, and rulers
  - examine workpieces for defects and measure workpieces with straight edges or templates to ensure conformance with specifications
  - recognize, set up, and operate hand and power tools common to the welding trade, such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc welding equipment
  - weld separately or in combination, using aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, and other alloys
  - clamp, hold, tack-weld heat-bend, grind or bolt component parts to obtain required configurations and positions for welding
  - select and install torches, torch tips, filler rods, and flux, according to welding chart specifications or types and thickness of metals
  - ignite torches or start power supplies and strike arcs by touching electrodes to metals being welded, completing electrical circuits
  - connect and turn regulator valves to activate and adjust gas flow and pressure so that desired flames are obtained
  - determine required equipment and welding methods, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques
  - monitor the fitting, burning, and welding processes to avoid overheating of parts or warping, shrinking, distortion, or expansion of materials
  - operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments, using processes such as gas tungsten arc, gas metal arc, flux-cored arc, shielded metal arc, resistance welding, and submerged arc welding
  - analyze engineering drawings, blueprints, sketches, work orders, and material safety data sheets to plan layout, assembly, and welding operations
  - mark or tag material with proper job number, piece marks, and other identifying marks as required
  - chip or grind off excess weld, slag, or spatter, using hand scrapers or power chippers, portable grinders, or arc-cutting equipment
  - remove rough spots from workpieces, using portable grinders, hand-files or scrapers
  - prepare all material surfaces to be welded, ensuring that there is no loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease or other foreign matter
  - preheat workpieces prior to welding or bending, using torches or heating surfaces
  - develop templates and models for welding projects, using mathematical calculations based on blueprint information
  - position and secure workpieces, using hoist, cranes, wire and handling machines or hand tools
  - guide and direct flames or electrodes on or across workpieces to straighten, bend, melt, or build up metal
  - detect faulty operation of equipment or defective materials and notify supervisors
  - clean



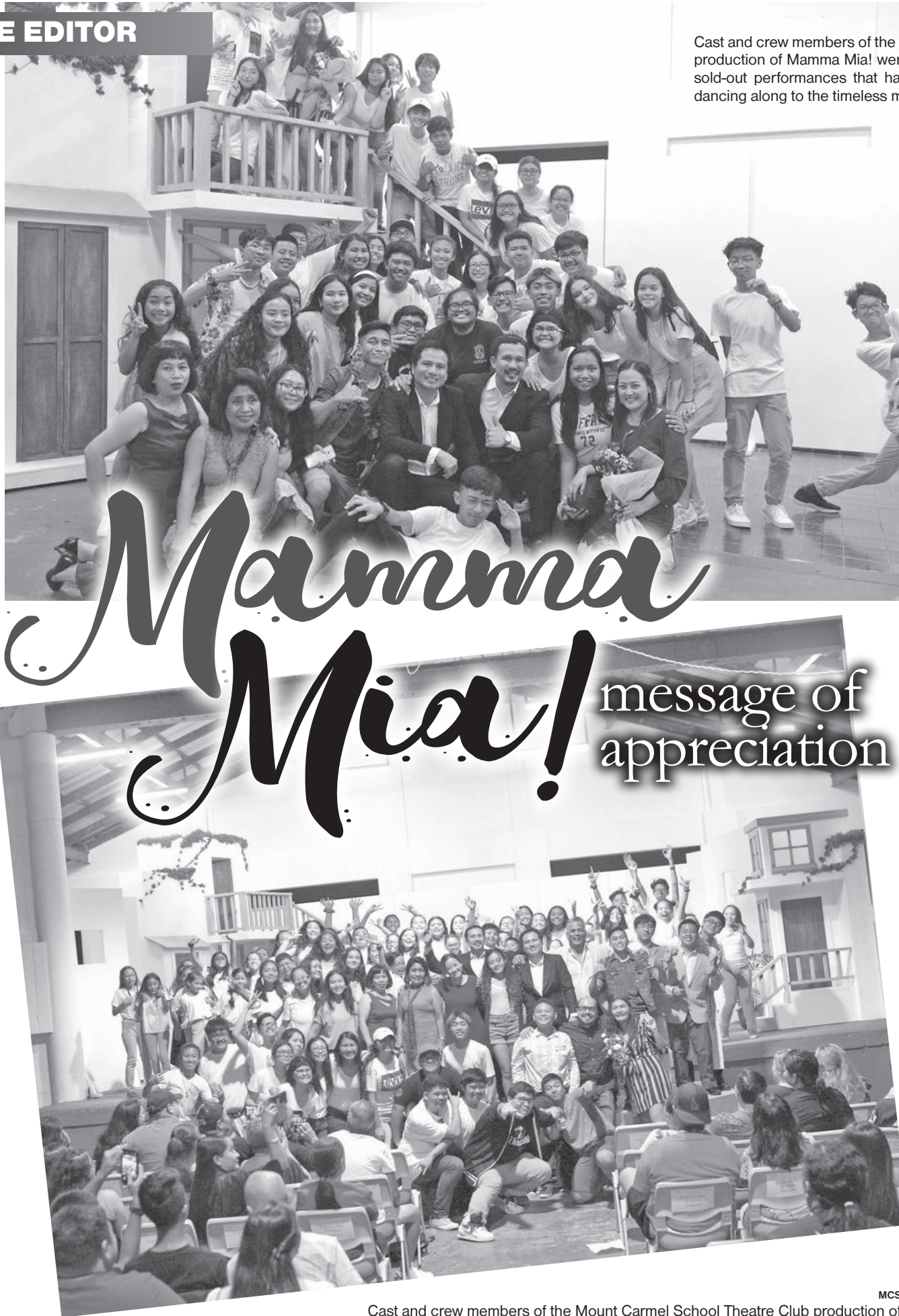
## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Last week, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club staged its production of *Mamma Mia!*, the hit Broadway musical featuring the timeless music of ABBA. The show was a huge success with sold-out performances, rave reviews, and overjoyed audience members. The cast and crew members were phenomenal with several break-out performances, a professional upgrade to the club's stage techniques, and a continuing commitment to tell great stories that entertain and lift spirits. Plus, the show marked the school's revival of its historic stage, which was recently renovated with temporary fixtures. Everyone found themselves laughing, crying, and singing ABBA tunes long after the curtain call.

Given the show's huge success, I felt it would be important to thank and recognize the many people and organizations that contributed, in one way or another, to the production.

First, as we always do at Mount Carmel School, we thank Almighty God for gracing us all with the faith, hope, and love to perform as we do. We also thank Bishop Ryan Jimenez, bishop emeritus Tomas Camacho, Mount Carmel School's board of directors, Mount Carmel School administrators, faculty, and staff, AlumKnights and the Mount Carmel School family, and audience members for supporting our Theatre Club and the show. In a special way, we also thank the parents of cast and crew members for their untiring support and for lending us their talented children.

Second, a number of businesses, organizations, and individuals contributed to specific aspects of the show. Luis Camacho Jr., Patrick Guerrero, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the CNMI Public Assistance Office, and the Office of the Governor helped secure much needed funding to repair the school's historic auditorium and stage. Lito Bernabe and Sagittarius were instrumental in bringing that auditorium and stage back to life with temporary renovations that made it safe for students, and building an amazing set that was designed by students. We also thank Chay Aspa and R&M Printers and Ed Calvo and Island Apparel for their support through the years. We also owe thanks to the following media outlets that helped with news coverage of the show: Gary Sword, Rosemond Santos Sword, Gordon Marciano, and KKMP; Jay-vee Vallejera, Iva Maurin, and *Saipan Tribune*; Zaldy Dandan and *Marianas Variety*; Fr. Jason Granado and the *North Star*; and Chris Nelson, Sally Limes, and KSPN2 News.



Cast and crew members of the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Mamma Mia!* were all smiles during curtain call after sold-out performances that had audience members singing and dancing along to the timeless music of ABBA.

Cast and crew members of the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Mamma Mia!* were all smiles during curtain call after sold-out performances that had audience members singing and dancing along to the timeless music of ABBA.

Third, last, but definitely not the least, we thank our amazing cast and crew members for shining on and off stage as true dramatic professionals. While the list of the cast and crew members is long, it is worth recognizing every single person for the talent, creativity, and passion that they invested into the show.

## CAST

**Donna:** Keiko Yamagata  
**Sophie:** Tessie Rose Schweiger  
**Rosie:** Eleonor Alejo  
**Tanya:** Criselda Aldan  
**Sam:** John Hernandez  
**Bill:** Eric Atalig  
**Harry:** Jener Pineda  
**Sophie's Understudy:** Jill

Anne Mallari  
**Ali:** Kyla Cabrera  
**Ali's Understudy:** Alyson Camacho  
**Lisa:** Raven Driver  
**Sky:** John Isaac Angeles San Nicolas  
**Sky's Understudy:** Sinahi Cepeda  
**Eddie:** Jared Terlaje "Da Man"  
**Pepper:** Brent Matthew Ortizo  
**Father Alexandrios:** Christian Palattao  
**Extras:** Caleb Aldan, Von Aldan, Asa Backe, Arwen Bartolata, Isabella Cabrera, Daniel Camacho, Kesiil Camacho, Jada Chang, Sophia Cornelio, Carly Kate Dela Cruz, Kina Dela Cruz, Friella Dela Santa,

Heleyna Dela Santa, Carlo Diaz, Fatima Dimaun, Quimari Liwerscheng Babauta Duenas, Valerie Estella, Brissa Hunter, Clint Irang, Vivica Kapileo, Jazmyn Lopez, Patricia Lugtu, Jennifer Mallari, Justin Mallari, Laizza Mallari, Caydince Raine Malit Masga, Ayanna Matsumoto, Naomi Matsumoto, Remiegem Melchor, Sarah Melchor, Amber Militante, Chloe Militante, Donnie Militante, Ethan Militante, Therese Ogo, Layla Palacios, Tricia Palacios, Jadine Pangelinan, Mya Pangelinan, Jener Pineda, Gavril Santiago, Jaxon Tagabuel, Christine Tamundong, Jessiana Tenorio, Malina Rose Tenorio, Sophia Tenorio, Quince Tizon, Peige

Tomokane, Riana Travilla, and Sage R. Villagomez

## CREW

**Director:** Brandee Hunter  
**Assistant director and choreographer:** Larry Dean Cruz  
**Music director:** Jan Bobadilla  
**Band director:** Julian Greening  
**Co-producer:** Victoria Deleon Guerrero  
**Stage manager:** Mikee Mame Mendoza  
**Floor manager:** Brian Youn  
**Assistant floor manager:** Skyler Poon  
**Set designer/props master:** Katherine "Kate" Averdano-Woodruff

**Costume director:** Connie Zhu  
**Assistant music director:** Sinahi Cepeda  
**Tech director:** William Blake Deleon Guerrero  
**Tech assistant:** William Año "Nathan"  
**Sound board operator:** Vaughn Mallari "Von"  
**Light board operator:** Christian Guerrero  
**Microphone manager:** Jetric Villar  
**Business manager:** Jaden Yamagata  
**Assistant business manager:** Amaya Reyes  
**Floor/artcrew:** Raymalyn Guanlao, Trinity Cruz, Shaina Lee "ShaINA", Penelope Sablan, Victoria "T-Bird" Santos, Victoria "Vicky" Ancheta, Francesca "Cheska" Bucalig, Vince Salvador, Raffy Lee, Esperanza "Espie" Castro, Maria Ayuyu, Kiana Propst, V.J. Reyes, Theresa Toves, Reuben Tomboc, and Bernard Marcelo  
**Ushers:** Mia Aguon, Juan Blanco, Mercedes Cruz, Aven Evangelista, Monique Duenas, Gwen Gamab, Hannah Lacap, Katelyn Rabang, Aubri Sablan, Raesyl Solis, and Kloney Virrey.

## BAND

**Keyboards:** Joyce Demaun and Chae Eun Kim  
**Guitar:** Dustin Salilin  
**Bass:** Jan Mathew Millo  
**Percussion:** Davean Gonzales and William Cano

Every single one of these cast and crew members did their part to bring the magic of theatre to the audience and to our community. They are all to be commended for giving their heart and soul to the show.

Above all, I appreciate the family that is the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club, where a first grade student can work alongside seniors and AlumKnights to tell compelling stories on stage and in film. This family is near and dear to my heart and the hearts of everyone in that family. And as one of the signature songs from *Mamma Mia!* goes:

*So I say thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing.  
 Thanks for all the joy they're bringing.  
 Who can live without it? I ask in all honesty,  
 What would life be?  
 Without a song or a dance, what are we?  
 So I say thank you for the music, for giving it to me!*

**Galvin Deleon Guerrero**  
 Mount Carmel School president  
 Mount Carmel School Theatre Club adviser  
*Mamma Mia!* producer



# Business

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

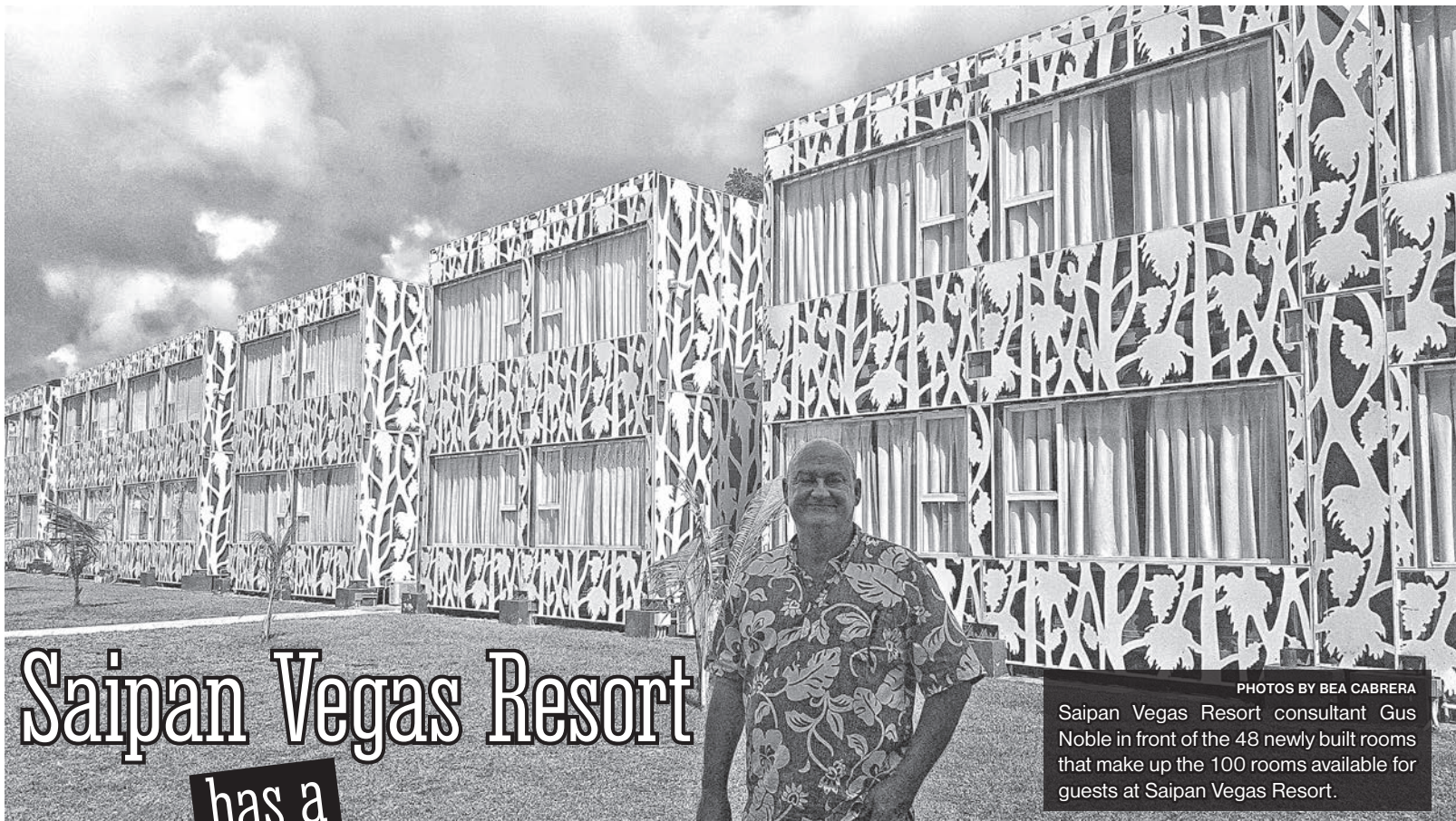
Saipan Vegas Resort located in Chalan Lau Lau on Middle Road keeps growing since it opened in March 2017. Starting as a budget resort with affordable accommodations, a lively mix of gaming experience, and a 9-hole golf course, it has extended its offerings to include 48 new rooms and an entertainment area which is a whole new world on its own.

Saipan Vegas Resort consultant Gus Noble said that this growth in a span of three years is an indication of the resort's investment in the community.

"With all the new additions, we are like an entertainment precinct... I think we are a great success story what you can do on the islands. We support local sports teams, we employ locals, we contribute to the community, and invest on the island."

"Last month, we opened an additional 48 units in the resort giving us 100 rooms total to accommodate guests. These rooms are bigger with 10-foot wide floor area compared to the first units that are only 8-foot wide... and now all 100 rooms in the resort have basic amenities like cable television, air-conditioning, bath with toiletries, and fiber optic WiFi," Noble added.

All 8-foot rooms are only \$35 a night and 10-foot rooms go for \$45 a night. "The rate is the same whether guests get a single or double rooms and that is how affordable our rooms are, everything is [Americans with



PHOTOS BY BEA CABRERA

Saipan Vegas Resort consultant Gus Noble in front of the 48 newly built rooms that make up the 100 rooms available for guests at Saipan Vegas Resort.

## Saipan Vegas Resort has a WORLD OF ITS OWN

Disabilities Act]-compliant so everyone is welcome and guests have a view of our relaxing courtyard," Noble said.

"We also offer 'extended stay hotel rates' for people who want to stay long. The 8-foot rooms go for \$390

a month and the 10-foot rooms are \$450 a month inclusive of amenities and room cleaning once a week. We have a coin laundry available for guests and cooking and barbecue area is underway," Noble added.

Another added feature in the resort is the Bamboo Bar which opened last week. "The Bamboo Bar is a place where guests and walk-ins can come and enjoy. We have island favorites such as pokes, chicken wings, and happy hour from 5pm to 7pm where we offer half off on drinks that includes cocktails, beer, and wine," Noble said.

"Beside the bar is a gazebo with a pool table with seats around it... we have already done a few functions and we are happy to have more work or family celebrations. As part of the opening promo, we are not charging for the use of the area, we give discounted drinks, free pool table, discounted food from Food Express,

free paid vouchers for the adults, discounted hotel rooms, and free golf—all part of the package for functions," Noble added.

Noble sees further growth for the resort as a buffet restaurant is currently being constructed with plans of opening early next year. "We will keep the buffet food affordable that will carry standard buffet food but with signature dishes that differentiate us from others like lobster tail, steak, and many others," he said.

"With the many changes in a short

span of time, we continue to grow, improve and increase our offerings. We also continue to have the same policy to employ locals, contribute to the community by paying all our taxes and is all about doing well and giving back to the community because that's part of what we do," Noble added.

For more information, call (670) 234-7300 or (670) 234-8718. You can also visit [www.saipanvegas.com](http://www.saipanvegas.com). FaceBook and Instagram and type Saipan Vegas



New rooms are spacious, comfortable, and includes cable TV, air-conditioning, bath with toiletries, and a view of the garden courtyard that adds a relaxed mood during stay.



Bamboo Bar which opened last week invites guests and walk-ins to relax and enjoy their affordable food and drinks.

## House leaders racing the clock on government spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate's top Republican issued a downbeat assessment of talks on a government spending bill Wednesday, warning that it will require a "laser focus from both parties and both chambers" to meet next week's deadline and avert a federal shutdown.

Across the Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met with Hispanic lawmakers about the upcoming appropriations measure, which is likely to largely maintain President Donald Trump's tactical ability to fund his much-sought border wall.

It's part of an effort to solidify support for the emerging catchall funding bill, which promises to deliver plenty of small-bore victories for lawmakers in both parties and is seen as preferable to the alternative of simply keeping the government on autopilot. Trump cares mostly about border fence funding.

"To be frank, only a laser focus from both parties and both chambers on getting results will create a path to pass appropriations bills this year," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said. "There simply is not time left for my

Democratic friends to continue haggling over ... poison pills, partisan policy riders and presidential transfer authorities."

As is often the case, California rivals Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy are feuding, this time about a long-shot McCarthy bid for additional funding for a controversial dam project that would provide more water for Central Valley farmers.

Nobody wants a government shutdown when a stop-gap spending bill expires at the end of next week, but time is running out and it's not at all certain that negotiations can close in time for the Senate to

process a year-end spending package. Another temporary funding bill, called a continuing resolution, or CR, could be needed to avert a repeat of last year's 35-day partial federal shutdown.

At issue is the almost one-third of the federal budget passed by Congress each year for day-to-day operations of federal agencies. This year's annual appropriations cycle was supposed to be relatively easy after this summer's budget and debt deal reversed a sharp set of spending cuts that would have otherwise struck both the Pentagon and domes-

tic agencies.

But a Senate GOP move to more than triple a key border wall account to meet Trump's demands sparked a two-month stalemate. Negotiations are back on track, with most of Trump's \$5 billion wall demand being returned to other domestic accounts.

It's complicated, but Trump has a significant tactical advantage that allows him to obtain several billion dollars for his border project. That's because he will refuse to sign any bill that denies his wall request outright or curtails his powers to transfer money from Pentagon accounts to border construction. Another option is to keep the

Homeland Security Department budget largely frozen under a continuing resolution while maintaining those same transfer authorities that Trump has used to shift almost \$7 billion to wall accounts even as Congress directly appropriates far less—\$1.4 billion for the 2019 budget year.

Nobody wants the third option: a government shutdown battle.

The no-win spot that anti-wall forces find themselves in promises to generate unrest among some progressives, though they may be reluctant to give leaders much blowback during the height of impeachment.



Nation

Judiciary panel takes first steps toward impeachment vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Judiciary Committee took the first steps Wednesday evening toward voting on articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, beginning a marathon two-day session to consider the historic charges with a lively prime-time hearing at the Capitol.

Democrats and Republicans used the otherwise procedural meeting to deliver sharp, poignant and, at times, personal arguments for and against impeachment. Both sides appealed to Americans’ sense of history — Democrats describing a strong sense of duty to stop what one called the president’s “constitutional crime spree” and Republicans decrying the “hot garbage” impeachment and what it means for the future of the country.

Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island asked Republicans standing by Trump to “wake up” and honor their

oath of office. Republican Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana responded with his own request to “put your country over party.” Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., shared his views in both English and Spanish.

One Democrat, Rep. Val Demings of Florida, told the panel that, as a descendant of slaves and now a member of Congress, she has faith in America because it is “government of the people” and in this country “nobody is above the law.” Freshman Democratic Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia emotionally talked about losing her son to gun violence and said that while impeachment was not why she came to Washington, she wants to “fight for an America that my son Jordan would be proud of.”

Republican Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio said Democrats are impeaching because “they don’t like us,” and read

out a long list of Trump’s accomplishments.

“It’s not just because they don’t like the president, they don’t like us,” Jordan added. “They don’t like the 63 million people who voted for this president, all of us in fly-over country, all of us common folk in Ohio, Wisconsin, Tennessee and Texas.”

The committee is considering two articles of impeachment introduced by Democrats. They charge Trump with abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden while withholding aid as leverage, and obstruction of Congress for stonewalling the House’s investigation.

On Thursday, the committee will likely vote to send the articles to the full House, which is expected to vote next week. That could come after hours of debate over Republican amendments, though the articles aren’t likely to be changed.

Democrats are unlikely to accept any amendments proposed by Republicans unified against Trump’s impeachment.

Democrats are also unified. They have agreed to the language, which spans only nine pages and says that Trump acted “corruptly” and “betrayed the nation” when he asked Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and the 2016 U.S. election. Hamstrung in the minority, Republicans wouldn’t have the votes to make changes without support from at least some Democrats.

The Wednesday evening session of the 41-member panel lasted more than three hours, with opening statements from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler opened the hearing by making a final argument for impeachment and urging his Republican colleagues to reconsider.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cohen wants sentence trimmed for cooperating against Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Cohen wants his three-year prison sentence reduced as a reward for providing authorities information about alleged misdeeds by President Donald Trump, according to court papers filed Wednesday in which he said his incarceration is “a powerful and humbling punishment.” Cohen claimed in the filings in federal court in Manhattan that his continuing cooperation has included spending 10 hours with representatives from the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. during three meetings at a minimum security prison northwest of New York City. Cohen, the former personal attorney and fixer for Trump, said he was asked to help “corroborate the claims and actions” related to Vance’s subpoena of Trump’s tax returns, an effort the president is seeking to have blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court. After once bragging that he would “take a bullet” for Trump, the 53-year-old Cohen turned on the president last year by meeting with federal prosecutors in New York and with the office of special counsel Robert Mueller, telling them he had lied to Congress to protect Trump. He said that in all, he has spent more than 170 hours meeting with “some eight different government agencies.” The documents ask for a court hearing so lawyers for Cohen can argue he deserves to either have a sentence that he began serving in May knocked down to one year and one day or be allowed to serve out his existing term under house arrest.

Police kill barricaded gunman who shot Pennsylvania trooper

A police visit requested by concerned friends of a mentally ill man who hadn’t been heard from in weeks turned deadly early Wednesday when state troopers shot and killed him, ending a 14-hour standoff that began when he shot and wounded a trooper. Police said they entered the home of Delos Lowe through an unlocked door and were met with gunfire from the disabled military veteran, who friends said had a long history of mental illness. Maria Phelps, the owner of a pizza shop that often delivered to Lowe, said she called 911 to ask police to check on Lowe when she and her staff hadn’t heard from him in several weeks. She added that she told authorities he was mentally ill and had weapons in the home. “I was very adamant about the fact he’s not OK,” she told WENY. After the initial shooting, the state police’s Special Emergency Response Team swarmed the scene in rural northern Pennsylvania as Lowe barricaded himself inside, authorities said. Lowe fired at police numerous times throughout the standoff in Nelson Township, in Tioga County, and refused their attempts to get him to surrender, state police said. Police shot and killed him around 2 a.m., they said. (AP)

Texas police: Officer fatally shot man who had assaulted him

LEAGUE CITY, Texas (AP)—Police say an officer answering a disturbance call has shot dead a man who was assaulting him. The incident happened about 4:45 p.m. Wednesday in a newly developed neighborhood of tract houses in League City, 26 miles (42 kilometers) southeast of Houston. A police spokesman says the officer was dispatched to one of those houses. Spokesman John Griffith says that upon arrival, the officer spoke to a woman who was standing near the house when a man emerged from the house and assaulted him. During the ensuing struggle, the officer shot the man fatally. Griffith says the officer incurred minor injuries during the fight. No identities have been released of either man. The Galveston County Sheriff’s Office is investigating the shooting, as it does all police-involved shootings in League City. The (Galveston County) Daily News reports the death is the fourth fatal police-involved shooting in the past two years in the city of about 107,000 residents.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB20-DPW/EN-021**

**SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 06, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “F” VEHICLE FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **THELMA B. INOS**  
DIRECTOR OF DPW/ENERGY

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS  
FOR  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
COMMUTER TERMINAL ACCESS ROAD PAVING  
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-18**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Commuter Terminal Access Road Paving Project at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Executive Director's office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 27, 2019, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than 5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 (CHST). Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
P.O. Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date: December 10, 2019

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP20-CHCC/HEMODIALYSIS-002**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM**

**“FULL AUTOMATION & INTEGRATION OF EMR SYSTEM”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ **CORAZON P. ADA**  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP20-CHCC/RESPIRATORY CARE-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM**

**“FOUR (4) PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS &  
FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIER BASE & STARTER KIT”**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ **CORAZON P. ADA**  
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



# Asia

## Nobel laureate Suu Kyi defends Myanmar army in genocide case

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—Nobel Peace Prize winner and former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi denied Wednesday that Myanmar’s armed forces committed genocide, telling the United Nation’s top court that the mass exodus of Rohingya people from the country she leads was the unfortunate result of a battle with insurgents. The image of the former pro-democracy icon appearing before the International Court of Justice to defend the army that kept her under house arrest for 15 years was striking. Suu Kyi, who as Myanmar’s state counselor holds an office similar to prime minister, was awarded the 1991 peace prize in absentia for championing democracy and rights under the nation’s then-ruling junta. Myanmar’s accusers have described a deliberate campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide that drove more than 700,000 Rohingya to neighboring Bangladesh. Addressing the world court in The Hague in her role as Myanmar’s foreign minister, Suu Kyi calmly attempted to refute allegations that army personnel killed civilians, raped women and torched houses in 2017.

She said the allegations stemmed from “an internal armed conflict started by co-ordinated and comprehensive armed attacks... to which Myanmar’s defense services responded. Tragically, this armed conflict led to the exodus of several hundred thousand Muslims.” Rohingya representatives and rights group said they were appalled by Suu Kyi’s testimony. “The world will judge their claim of no genocide with evidence,” said Mohammed Mohibullah, chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights. “A thief never admits he is a thief, but justice can be delivered through evidence.” The African nation of Gambia brought the legal action against Myanmar on behalf of the 57-country Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Gambia alleges that genocide occurred and is still ongoing. It requested an emergency legal hearing asking the International Court of Justice to take action to stop the violence, including “all measures within its power to prevent all acts that amount to or contribute to the crime of genocide” in Myanmar.

**ASIA BRIEFS**  
**NZ planning retrieval of bodies on volcanic island**  
**WHAKATANE, New Zealand** (AP)—A team of eight New Zealand military specialists will land on a small volcanic island just after first light Friday to attempt to retrieve the bodies of eight victims of an eruption that claimed eight other lives. New Zealand police said late Thursday the recovery attempt will go ahead even though scientists believe another eruption is possible on White Island. Steam and mud are emitting from its active vents and volcanic tremors are rising, volcanologists said. Police, military, volcano experts and others will monitor the recovery attempt from the HMNZS Wellington, which will be stationed nearby, authorities said. Police Deputy Commissioner Mike Clement told reporters the recovery operation is “not without risk. “They will go onto the island and they will make every effort to recover all of the bodies,” Clement said at a news conference. The continuing volcanic activity has delayed

the recovery of the last victims since Monday’s deadly eruption, which occurred as 47 tourists were exploring the island. In addition to the bodies left on the island, eight other people were killed and dozens were severely burned by the blast of scalding steam and ash.  
**India’s Parliament passes contentious citizenship bill**  
**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Indian lawmakers approved legislation on Wednesday granting citizenship to non-Muslims who migrated illegally from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Critics of the government said the legislation undermines the country’s secular constitution, as protests against the law intensified in some parts of the country. The Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to grant Indian nationality to Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs who fled the three countries before 2015. The upper house of Parliament passed the bill 125-105 on Wednesday night. The lower house had approved it on Monday. It now needs to

be signed by the country’s ceremonial president, a formality before becoming law. The bill was introduced by the Hindu nationalist-led government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his resounding election victory in May. Modi said it was a “landmark day for India” and the law would “alleviate the suffering of many who faced persecution for years.” Introducing the bill in the upper house, Home Minister Amit Shah said it was not anti-Muslim because it did not affect the existing path to citizenship available to all communities.  
**US: NKorea missile tests are ‘deeply counterproductive’**  
**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The United States warned North Korea Wednesday that its “deeply counterproductive” ballistic missile tests risk closing the door on prospects for negotiating peace but said it is “prepared to be flexible” and take concrete, parallel steps with Pyongyang toward an agreement. U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft delivered the message at a Security Council

meeting less than three weeks before North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s end-of-December deadline for the Trump administration to come up with new proposals to revive nuclear diplomacy. Negotiations faltered after the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of the North’s nuclear capabilities at Kim’s second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump last February. North Korea has carried out 13 ballistic missile launches since May to pressure Washington, and has hinted at lifting its moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests if the Trump administration fails to make substantial concessions before the new year. Craft warned North Korea that “the United States and the Security Council have a goal, not a deadline” of working toward peace, healing the wounds of the Korean War, and achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, a vision that Kim and Trump agreed to at their first summit in Singapore in June 2018.



**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Guma’ Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.justice.gov.mp](http://www.justice.gov.mp)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:  
**ASSISTANT PROBATION OFFICER**  
Announcement # JVA19-027  
SAIPAN  
**DUTIES:** This position works under the direct supervision of the Chief Probation Officer or his/her designee. The Assistant Probation Officer (he/she) will assist in the collection and entry of probation data, its verification, tracking and monitoring per the requirements of federal programs, and assist in the investigation of offenders’ personal history, background and environment. In the absence of the probation officer, he/she reports findings to the Court and is prepared to make appropriate recommendations on dispositions. He/she assists with the interviews of probationers to determine effectiveness of probation and supervision and it what form further casework and counseling may be needed. He/she assists with referral of probationers’ to community social resources for assistance in rehabilitation. He/she recommends revocation of probation and /or modification of court orders when necessary. Below, the Assistant Probation Officer’s duties and responsibilities are further enumerated:

- Assists with the intake of counseling interviews, assigning cases according to approved counseling techniques in order to determine and clarify probationer’s problems, consulting with supervisors when necessary;
- Assists the probation officer gather and evaluate data from homes, schools, churches, social agencies and neighborhoods pertinent to individual cases;
- Assists the probation officer in the probationer’s complete evaluation, contacting as necessary collateral sources in order to evaluate and verify current information as to a probationer’s adjustment, and refers probationers to community agencies that offer specialized services that are required for particular needs;
- Assists the probation officer monitor and enforce payment orders of the Court, i.e. restitution payments, fines and support orders, etc;
- Assists the probation officer’s documentation of facts and testimony in court with respect to the probationer’s activities, behavior and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Following established legal procedures, assists the probation officer bring alleged violations of the probationer to the attention of the Court and/ or bring the probationer before the Court as required;
- Assists the probation officer conduct investigations, prepare appropriate reports focused on a “why” of the individual’s behavior and is prepared to make recommendations based on the investigations;
- Represents the Judge and the Chief Probation Officer in certain phases of meeting with the public;
- Performs various public relations activities, such as addressing community groups, participating in the conferences and panels of other agencies;
- Performs all assigned duties in the department’s administration and assists in the case assignments scheduled for appearance in court;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, up-to-date case records in the prescribed form;
- Assists in the preparation and submission of the division’s monthly statistical performance reports;
- Meets with interagency contacts, other department heads, division heads and subordinates on matters of policy and procedure;
- Inputs probation data in the Probation Tracking System and performs other duties as assigned.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Must be a high school graduate and have obtained an Associate of Arts and/or Science degree from a college or university in criminal justice, public administration, psychology, social work or other closely related field.  
Be familiar with the reading of court orders, processing a general knowledge of probation laws, the missions of probation departments, their ethics and potential liabilities.  
Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel.  
Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid driver’s license and must be able to operate a court vehicle. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.  
**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$20,000 - \$21,509.00 annually.  
**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:  
Human Resources  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670)234-4252  
Cell. (670) 783-8592  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
[hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com](mailto:hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com)  
This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.  
THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



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Website: [www.justice.gov.mp](http://www.justice.gov.mp)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:  
**COMPLIANCE OFFICER**  
Announcement # JVA20-003  
**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which is responsible to monitor and supervise participants of the CNMI Drug Court by: (1) ensuring public safety; (2) deterring non-compliant behavior; (3) providing accountability in treatment programs; (4) supporting participants’ progress; (5) detecting and providing early intervention; and (6) extending the treatment into the law enforcement community. The Compliance Officer will work directly with individuals who have substance abuse addictions and will report to the Community Supervision Officer as the direct supervisor, Drug Court Manager, and court regarding participant compliance in the program but are not limited to the following:

- Provides assistance to the Drug Court Manager in monitoring participants;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for Drug Court hearings;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual drug court cases from resource areas including, as necessary, participants’ home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc;
- Contacts public and private community resources to secure services for participants. Maintains continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Coordinates enforcement of Drug Court orders, including curfews and home detention with law enforcement officers designated to Drug Court;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools, and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings.
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows policies for monitoring court-ordered payments, such as restitution, fines, and child support payments;
- Works closely with Drug Court caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services, and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific drug testing in accordance with the CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Possess skills necessary for the use of and care of firearms, and performs and enforces the CNMI Weapons Control Act and Federal Firearms Regulations. Applicant is required to pass either a CNMI Law Enforcement or Federal Firearms Certification course and meet the criteria for annual firearms qualification to carry firearms under the Marshals Service Division Firearms Standard Operating Procedures;
- Exercises good judgment in stressful situations
- Proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel and knowledgeable about the use of data systems.
- Complies with applicable local and federal laws, including the Special Act for Firearms Enforcement (SAFE), and court rules and policies; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Candidate must have a valid driver’s license and a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) associate’s degree from a nationally accredited college or university in Criminal Justice or related field, plus at least two years experience as a law enforcement officer; OR (2) four years experience as a law enforcement officer. Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.  
Successful candidates must complete and pass law enforcement training, including firearms qualification, during the probationary period.  
Military experience may be considered; successful candidates with only military background must complete additional law enforcement training during the probationary period.  
Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies.  
Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers’ license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.  
**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$25,000 - \$28,000 per annum.  
**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:  
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[hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com](mailto:hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com)  
This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.  
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# World

**PUNTA ARENAS, Chile** (AP)—Debris believed to be from a military transport plane carrying 38 people that vanished two days ago en route to the Antarctic has been discovered in the frigid, treacherous waters between the icy continent and South America, Chile's Air Force said Wednesday.

Air Force Gen. Eduardo Mosqueira said "sponge" material, possibly from the plane's fuel tank, was found floating roughly 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the place the C-130 Hercules last had radio contact.

The debris will be analyzed to see if it corresponds to the missing plane, he said, adding that the process could take up to two days.

The C-130 Hercules took off Monday afternoon from a base in far-south-

ern Chile on a regular maintenance flight for an Antarctic base. Radio contact was lost 70 minutes later.

The debris was spotted by a private plane assisting in the search, and officials said a Brazilian ship in the area equipped with instruments will next scan 3,200 meters (10,499 feet) underwater at the site.

"We estimate that the debris may in fact be from the C-130 fuel tank," Mosqueira said.

The discovery came as Chilean officials had expanded the search for the missing military plane.

Mosqueira said the search area covered an area of about 400 by 450 kilometers (250 by 280 miles) and he said improved visibility was helping the crews of searchers using planes, satellites and vessels from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and the U.S. as well as Chile.

The search area extended over

treacherous waters of Drake Passage between the tip of South America and the Antarctic. The plane was carrying 17 crew members and 21 passengers, three of them civilians.

The two pilots had extensive experience, according to the Chilean air force, which said that while the plane was built in 1978, it was in good condition. The air force said it flies this route monthly.

The four-engine C-130 is a "mili-

tary workhorse" and experts say in general well maintained airplanes can fly for 50-plus years.

The aircraft would have been about halfway to the Antarctic base when it lost contact, officials said, adding that no emergency signals had been activated.

The plane had taken off in favorable conditions, though it was flying in an area notorious for rapidly changing weather, with freezing temperatures and strong winds. Seven hours after contact was cut off, the air force declared the plane a loss, though there was no sign of what happened to it.

## Chile: Debris believed from MISSING PLANE carrying 38 FOUND

AP  
Relatives of passengers of a missing military plane arrive at an airbase in Punta Arenas, Chile, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019. Searchers using planes, ships and satellites were combing the Drake Passage on Tuesday, hunting for the plane carrying 38 people that vanished en route to an Antarctica base.



## Israel to hold 3rd straight election, prolonging stalemate

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel's deadlocked parliament on Wednesday failed to meet a midnight deadline to form a coalition government, triggering an unprecedented third election in a 12-month period while giving scandal-plagued Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a welcome break as he fights to save his political career.

The move prolongs a year-long political stalemate that has paralyzed the government and undermined public trust in the government. The country now enters what once again is sure to be a bitter three-month political campaign that is expected to deliver very similar results.

"Keep your children away from the television," said Yair Lapid, a leader of the opposition Blue and White party, saying the campaign will be a "festival of hate,

violence and disgust."

"What used to be a celebration of democracy has become a moment of shame for this building," he added. "There are only three reasons for this election—bribery, fraud and breach of trust," he said, referring to the criminal charges filed against Netanyahu last month.

Following the Sept. 17 vote, Netanyahu's Likud party and the rival Blue and White, led by former military commander Benny Gantz, both failed to cobble together a governing coalition. Then, during a final three-week window that ended Wednesday, they were unable to agree on a power-sharing agreement or find an alternative leader.

Both men had insisted they want to avoid another costly election campaign. And together, their parties control

a solid majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

But neither was willing to compromise on their core demands for a unity government. Netanyahu insisted on serving as prime minister, where he is best positioned to fight his corruption charges. Gantz has refused to serve under a prime minister with such serious legal problems and called on Likud to choose a different leader.

Hours before the deadline, parliament took an initial step to dissolve itself on its own. But as speeches and committee work stretched into the night, the lawmakers managed to pass only one of three required readings of the bill on time by a 91-0 margin. Even after the deadline automatically dissolved parliament, lawmakers worked throughout the night to finalize the March 2 election date.

## US hits Iran with new sanctions, hopes for prisoner dialogue

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday hit Iran with new sanctions that target several transportation firms as it continues its "maximum pressure campaign" against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The sanctions target Iran's state shipping line and a China-based company that has been involved in delivering missile parts to Iran. They also add a layer of new penalties to a previously sanctioned Iranian airline, Mahan Air, which is accused of sending weapons to Iranian proxies in Lebanon and Yemen, and three of its sales agents.

The moves were announced by the Treasury and the State Department and will subject foreign firms and governments that do business with the targeted entities to sanctions themselves, including a freeze on any assets they may have in U.S. jurisdictions.

"Today's designations put

the world on notice that those who engage in illicit transactions with these companies will risk exposure and sanctions themselves," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman for Iran's U.N. Mission, tweeted later Wednesday: "These sanctions are directly targeting ordinary Iranians' livelihood, but they will not be cowed by pressures by any foreign power. And another step in the US' #economicterrorism against Iranians, who are never fooled by the US's crocodile tears."

Pompeo announced the sanctions even as he expressed hope that a weekend prisoner swap with Iran could lead to a dialogue between Washington and Tehran over prisoners. He called Saturday's release of Princeton graduate student Xiyue Wang in exchange for an Iranian jailed in the U.S. a "happier note" that could yield progress.

"I do hope the exchange

that took place will lead to a broader discussion on consular affairs. We are working to use this as an opportunity to continue that effort," he said. "I hope that it portends well. We have had some indication that that may be the case, but I don't want to be overstate that, I don't want to give false optimism about that pathway."

"If we can find an opening and deliver these people back to their families and back to America we will certainly do that," he said.

U.S. authorities say Iran is holding one American national and five dual U.S.-Iranian nationals. They include Navy veteran Michael White, who is serving a 10-year espionage sentence, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, an Iranian with U.S. and British citizenship also initially sentenced to 10 years in prison, and Iranian-American father and son Siamak and Baquer Namazi.



# Off the Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### Unlucky for some: Man charged with rigging 10K bingo game

**MONROE, La.** (AP)—The luck has ran out for a Louisiana man allegedly caught rigging bingo games to win more than \$10,000. John Cook, 43, was booked into the Ouachita Correctional Facility on Friday on a felony theft charge and two counts for failing to appear multiple times following his June 29 arrest, according to a Monroe Police warrant obtained by news outlets. Police say Cook was recorded on video at a bingo parlor manipulating a “Bonanza Bingo” game by handpicking the balls he wanted to play and then hiding the winner until he was ready to end the game. The warrant says Cook did this four times and won thousands for three people, including his sister. One of the winners was captured speaking with Cook before the drawing, and two winners were seen giving Cook money after the game, the warrant states. He’s in jail on an \$11,000 bond.

### Police: Subway worker robbed shop to teach ‘a lesson’

**LAS CRUCES, N.M.** (AP)—An employee of a New Mexico Subway sandwich shop is facing charges after police say she robbed the place to teach another worker “a lesson.” Lorena Ariana Marin, 22, and her alleged accomplice Angelo Rey Espinosa, 19, were arrested Monday night following reports of a robbery in Las Cruces, New Mexico, the Las Cruces Sun-News reports. Police said Espinosa allegedly stood by while Marin verbally and physically threatened the employees after hopping behind the counter. They ushered the employees to the back of the store, but one employee ran to her car and got away. Marin told officers she committed the robbery “to teach one of the employees a lesson about what could happen late at night in that part of town.” Marin and Espinosa are facing robbery charges. No attorney was listed for either suspect. They are being held without bail at the Doña Ana County Detention Center.

### When pigs flee: Pet potbellied Biscuit escapes family trip

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.** (AP)—A little piggy named Biscuit is headed home. Police in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, found a 6-week-old potbellied pig behind an area restaurant on Sunday, The News & Observer reports. Earlier that day, he escaped from his family, who was vacationing

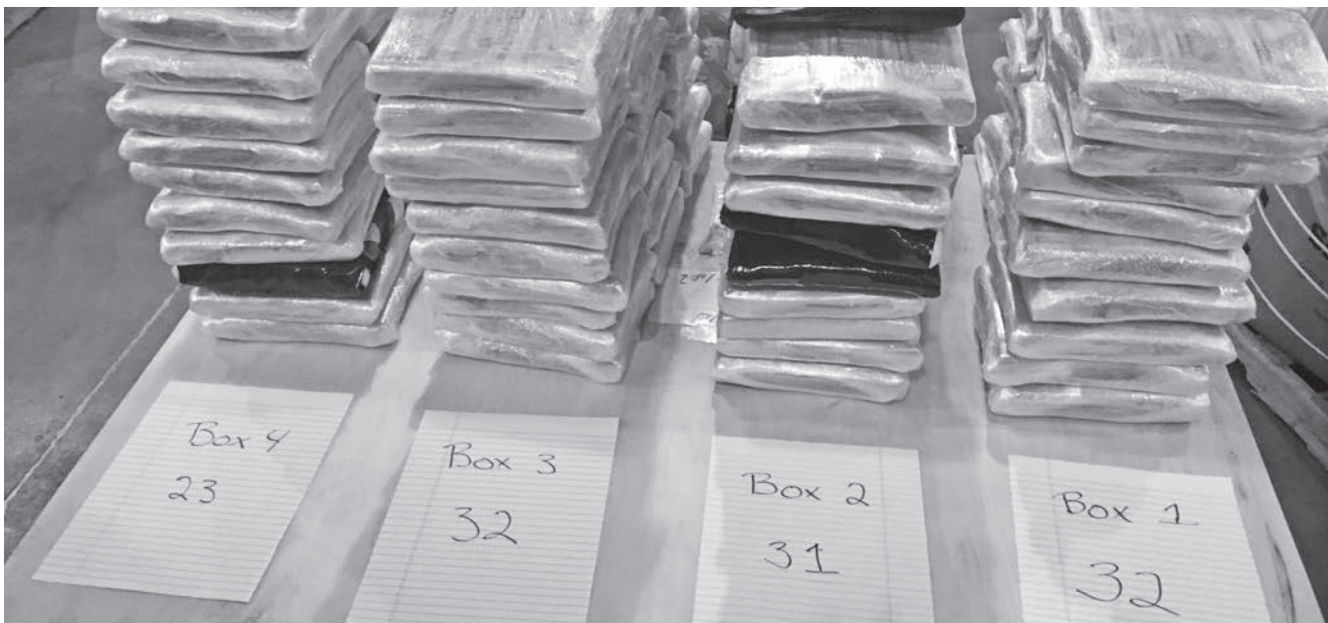
in the area from North Carolina, police said in a statement. A photo of a sand-speckled Biscuit shows him post-rescue and tucked into the arm of one of his saviors. Officers are working to unite him with his family, police said.

### Woman accidentally calls DA investigator, gets needed walker

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** (AP)—An 84-year-old New Mexico woman’s misdial meant for a medical supply store went to an investigator in a district attorney’s office—and led to a new walker. KOB-TV reports Bernice Weems mistakenly called Kyle Hartsock with the Bernalillo County District Attorney’s Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, seeking a new walker. She left a voicemail. It turns out Hartsock’s number is just one digit off from the medical supply store she was trying to call. Hartsock says instead of ignoring the message, he went out and got Weems a walker. “I called her and I said, ‘Bernice, we have a walker for you.’ She said, ‘Awesome.’ I think she still thought we were like a walker store,” Hartsock said. This surprise came just in time for Bernice’s grandson’s wedding in Denver. “They made me feel oh so good. It’s been a long, long time since I’ve felt that good,” Weems said.

### Wyoming deputies lasso deer that fell through iced-over pond

Two Wyoming sheriff’s deputies channeled their inner cowboy and lassoed a deer flailing in a frigid pond after it fell through thin ice, authorities said Wednesday. Sublette County sheriff’s Deputies Justin Hays and Joshua Peterson responded to a report Tuesday afternoon that a deer had fallen into a pond near the small ranching town of Daniel in southwestern Wyoming. Because the ice was too thin to walk on, they lassoed the deer and pulled it to shore. They left the deer on a nearby driveway where it could warm up, and it was gone a few hours later, sheriff’s officials said. Peterson stood at one end of the pond with a lasso and drove the deer toward Hays at the other end, Sgt. Travis Bingham said. Peterson’s body camera captured video of Hays as he swung the lasso around his head before looping it easily around the deer. The deputies carry ropes with them to herd cows that block roadways in the county, Bingham said. Hays, in particular, is a skilled cowboy, he said. “It was the right people in the right place at the right time,” Bingham said. (AP)



In this December 2019 photo provided by the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office in Shelby, N.C., approximately \$3 million in cash, wrapped in plastic, is displayed near the barrels of raw pork shoulder in which it was discovered in.

## Oink oink, cha-ching: \$3 million found in barrels of pork

**B**arrels of raw pork shoulder were riding fat in a tractor trailer pulled over by North Carolina deputies.

Approximately \$3 million in cash was recovered from the barrels Saturday, the

Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office said in a Facebook post Tuesday. The driver of the tractor trailer was accused of failing to maintain his lane and impeding the flow of traffic on Interstate 85.

Deputies became suspicious of the truck when a K-9

alerted to the trailer, the post says. Deputies searched the tractor trailer and discovered the cash wrapped in plastic in the barrels.

The money is believed to have been obtained from drug sales throughout the region and was headed to Mexico,

Sheriff Alan Norman said.

“It’s one of the largest U.S. currency seizures in Cleveland County history,” Norman told The Shelby Star.

The Department of Justice has been called to assist in the investigation, according to the sheriff’s office. (AP)

## Irony? Chicago salt truck slides on ice into Lake Michigan

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Two Chicago Park District workers escaped without serious injury after the salt truck they were navigating along an icy lakefront bike path slid into Lake Michigan Wednesday morning.

The pickup truck hit a slick spot and slipped backward into the water on Chicago’s near North Side around 7:20 a.m., said Dep. District Chief Jason Lach of the Chicago Fire Department Marine Dive Operations. It slid halfway into the water before getting caught on a breakwall.

The two occupants were able to escape the sinking vehicle and crawl to safety, and both are in good condition.

Light snow blanketed the Chicago area early Wednesday, with temperatures at about 17 degrees (-8 Celsius), the National Weather Service said. The snow and cold left a heavy ice build-up along the bike path.

“They were out there salting the area and the truck slid in,” Park District spokeswoman Michelle Lemons told the Chicago Tribune.

The lakefront bike path, which slopes toward the water and is often wet at the point where the accident happened, was closed while crews worked to remove the truck from the water.

“We need to make sure that everyone remembers that with the high lake levels we have right now, the water comes up even higher and up onto the bike path and it might not look

like it’s dangerous, but it could still be a sheet of glass where


anybody can slide and it’s at an angle here, so you can slide

right into the lake, just like this vehicle did,” Lach said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

## † Maria Iglecias Blas Camacho

AKA MARIAN JUAN ABARUS  
BORN ON MARCH 24, 1950 • CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON DECEMBER 3, 2019



**In her eternal life she joins:**  
**Father:** †Domingo Matagolai Blas  
**Father-in-Law:** †Jose Tudela Camacho  
**Mother-in-Law:** †Juana Pangelinan Taitingfong  
**Sons:** †Juan B. Camacho, Jr.; †Ray Patrick B. Camacho; †Christopher Vincent B. Camacho  
**Brothers, Sisters & In-laws:** †Jose I. Blas; †Antonio I. Blas; †Martha I. Blas; †Frances I. Blas; †Annette Tricia Blas; †Ricardo A. Castillio; †Christina M. Blas, †Joshua Taisague  
**Nephew & Nieces:** †Annett Tricia Blas / †Jaylynn Blas / †Joyce B. Ayuyu / †Joy Abigail Blas / †Oscar B. Ayuyu, Jr.  
**Her spirit and memories will forever live in hearts of her:**  
**Husband:** Juan Taitingfong Camacho  
**Children:** †Juan B. Camacho, Jr.; †Ray Patrick B. Camacho / MaryAnn Demapan & Children; †Bernard B. Camacho / Shirley Pangelinan & Children; †Anthony B. Camacho / Christy Demapan & Children; †Christopher B. Camacho; †Joey B. Camacho / Richko Rauapi & Children; †Luis B. / Jonnielyn N. Camacho & Children; †Alejandra Iglecias Blas  
**Mother:** †Jose I. Blas / Ana T. Blas & Family; †Herminia Blas / George Cruz & Family; †Agnes B. / †Ricardo A. Castillio & Family; †Antonio I. & †Christina M. Blas & Family; †Juan I. / Teresita Blas & Family; †Bernadita I. Blas; †Julita B. / Marcelino Roberto & Family; †Martha I. Blas / Oscar Ayuyu & Family; †Edward I. / †Agnes M. Blas and Family; †Genet I. Blas & sons; †Frances I. Blas; †Linda B. / Luis Guanzon & Family; †Jeffrey & Angie Hocog; †Joshua Taisague & Claire Pocaigue; †Carmen Blas Pangelinan & Family; †Leon T. / †Vistacion M. Camacho & Family; †Vicente T. / Rita D. Camacho & Family; †Antonio T. / †Maria B. Camacho & Family; †Luis T. / Thomasa C. Camacho & Family; †Isabel T. Camacho & Family  
**Special Auntie: In-Laws:**

Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. Nightly rosary is being said at her residence in As Perdido, 7:00pm. Daily mass is at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am.

Her remains will be arriving from Guam on Thursday, December 12th at 11:00 a.m. and will be escorted to CHCC Morgue. On Saturday, December 14th, 2019 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to her residence in As Perdido. Upon arrival, responso and rosary will said. Public viewing will be available after the rosary.

On the same day at 12:45pm, her remains will be escorted to St. Jude Church for the Christian Funeral Mass. Burial will follow immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Thank you, Olomwaay yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase  
**Juan Taitingfong Camacho & Children (ABARUS)**



# Science & Technology

## Facebook, Google drop out of top 10 'best places to work' list

By KURT WAGNER  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

**S**AN FRANCISCO—Big tech companies like Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google, long seen as some of the world's most desirable workplaces offering countless perks and employee benefits, are losing some of their shine.

The Silicon Valley companies dropped out of the Top 10 "best places to work" in the U.S., according to Glass-

door's annual rankings released Tuesday. HubSpot Inc., a cloud-computing software company, grabbed the No. 1 ranking while tech firms DocuSign Inc. and Ultimate Software were three and eight, respectively.

Facebook, which has been rated as the "best place to work" three times in the past 10 years, was ranked 23rd. It's the social-media company's lowest position since it first made the list in 2011 as the top-rated workplace. Facebook, based in Menlo Park, California, was ranked seventh last year.

Google, voted "best place

to work" in 2015 and a Top-10 finisher the previous eight years, came in at No. 11 on Glassdoor's list. Apple Inc., once a consistent Top-25 finisher, was ranked 84th. Amazon Inc., which has never been known for a positive internal culture, failed to make the list for the 12th straight year.

Microsoft Corp. was one of the lone big technology companies to jump in the rankings. The Redmond, Washington-based software company moved to No. 21 from 34 a year ago.

The annual list ranks companies using employee reviews on areas such as

compensation, benefits, culture and senior management. Many of the big tech companies, including Facebook and Google, have been criticized this year for a myriad of issues, and in some cases employees have publicly opposed executive decisions.

At Google, employees have protested against the company on a number of topics, including the company's "intimidation" tactics against worker organizers. The results of an internal employee poll at the internet search giant, reported by Bloomberg in February, showed that fewer employees were inspired by Chief Execu-

tive Officer Sundar Pichai's vision than a year earlier. It also found fewer workers believe senior management could successfully lead the company into the future.

At Facebook, which just like Google provides employ-

ees with perks including free meals, corporate transportation and laundry services, workers have pushed back internally against leadership on some policy issues, such as the decision not to fact-check political advertisements.

## TOR browser is secretive, slow and can be risky

### TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com).

Please include a full name, city and phone number.

**Q**: I read your column on private Web browsing (see [tinyurl.com/vd6fwz3](https://tinyurl.com/vd6fwz3)). What do you think about using the TOR browser for privacy?

**A**: The free TOR browser allows you to be more anonymous on the internet than you would be with browsers such as Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. But TOR (which stands for The Onion Router) also runs slower than other browsers, and enables some potentially risky activity. Here are some details:

**Anonymity:** TOR (see [tinyurl.com/3k65xdw](https://tinyurl.com/3k65xdw)) conceals your identity better than other browsers by hiding your IP address and routing your browsing through three network relay points called "nodes." This can cause problems. A website that can't see your IP address doesn't know where you are. It may block you or display the wrong language. And TOR isn't foolproof. There are ways it can be hacked to get your info.

**Speed:** TOR is inherently slower than other browsers because your requests pass through those three nodes. Those steps raise the time between when you request a website and when it appears on your screen.

**Security:** The TOR browser allows you to access both the "Surface Web" (the internet most people know) and the "Deep Web," (the rest of the internet where information is not organized into websites and can't easily be found.) The Deep Web provides legitimate ways to safeguard private data. But a portion of the Deep Web, called the Dark Web, conceals illegal activities, such as selling drugs, guns, child pornography and stolen credit card numbers. Even computer-security experts are wary of the Deep Web; the average computer user should avoid it.

**Q: I bought a Windows 7 Gateway PC in 2014. It's not on Gateway's list of PCs that can be upgraded to Windows 10, so can I upgrade to Windows 8.1 instead (assuming I can find a copy)?**

**A**: Windows 8 debuted two years before you bought your Windows 7 PC, so you can upgrade to Windows 8.1 (the version now available.) A Google search for "buy Windows 8.1" lists about a dozen offers to sell it. And Windows 8.1 will receive security updates until Jan. 10, 2023.

However, if you like Windows 7, which was designed to be used with a mouse, you may not like Windows 8.1, which was designed to be used with a touch screen, although it can also be used with a mouse. (For a comparison of the two operating systems, see [tinyurl.com/ufoevaa8](https://tinyurl.com/ufoevaa8)).

**Q: Is it possible to upgrade my HP Pavilion PC from Windows Vista to Windows 10?**

**A**: Any PC running Windows Vista is at least 10 years old and is unlikely to be compatible with the latest version of Windows 10. Even if it is compatible with Windows 10, it may not work with future updates, so I recommend that you buy a new PC. But, if you are willing to pay for a Windows 10 upgrade that may fail, here are directions (see [tinyurl.com/ycjsmwn3](https://tinyurl.com/ycjsmwn3)). In any event, you shouldn't continue to use Windows Vista, which hasn't received security updates since April 2017.

### Science Matters

## What lies in actual 'outer space'

The two Voyager spacecraft, traveling 41 years, have left the solar system into the emptiness between stars – "interstellar space" – and are now reporting what is there.

### Heliosphere

Solar wind of charged particles flows outward from sun forming an expanding bubble

### Heliopause

Outer edge of heliosphere

**Voyager 1** Launched Sept. 1977; most distant man-made object; left solar system in 2012



**Heliosheath**  
Turbulent zone at leading edge of heliosphere



**Voyager 2** Launched August 1977; observed outer planets; left solar system in 2018

SUN

PLANETS

### Termination shock

Solar wind slows due to pressure of interstellar material

### The solar system moves,

orbiting around the Milky Way galaxy\* at 828,000 km/h (514,000 mph); that distorts the shape of the heliosphere from a sphere

### INTERSTELLAR MATERIAL

## What the Voyagers found out there

**Temperature:** Interstellar space is hotter than was expected; flow of charged particles through space heats it to 30,000–50,000° C

**Cosmic rays:** High-energy protons and atomic nuclei zipping through space at nearly light speed; they come from distant stars or galaxies

### Cosmic ray's path

Sun's magnetic field protects solar system from many of them

### Boundary layer:

Out beyond the heliopause, in a zone beyond the sun's influence and its magnetic field, the Voyagers encountered the "interstellar wind" of charged particles – and complicated disturbances in this transitional area

\* Takes 230 million years to orbit once around the galaxy

Source: NASA, Nature Astronomy journal  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



# Life & Style

## Weinstein reaches tentative \$25M deal with accusers



### 'PERSON OF THE YEAR'

TIME VIA AP

This photo provided by Time magazine shows Greta Thunberg, who has been named Time's youngest "person of the year" on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019. The media franchise said Wednesday on its website that Thunberg is being honored for work that transcends backgrounds and borders. Thunberg said she was surprised and honored, while adding that others in the global movement she helped inspire deserve to share the accolade. The 16-year-old Swede has become the face of a new generation of environmental activists, drawing large crowds with her appearances at protests and conferences over the past year and a half.

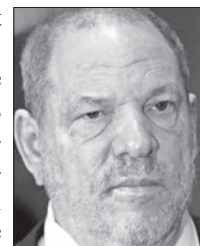
**NEW YORK (AP)**—A tentative \$25 million settlement revealed Wednesday to end nearly every sexual misconduct lawsuit brought against Harvey Weinstein and his former film studio's board was praised by a plaintiff and some lawyers but criticized by others who say those who opt out are punished.

Louissette Geiss, a plaintiff in a Manhattan federal court class-action lawsuit, said the settlement was "our way to hold all women up. We are trying to create a new reality where this

type of behavior is not accepted."

In a statement, she said the lawsuit was intended as "a wake-up call for all companies that they will be held accountable if they protect predators in their midst."

"Now that The Weinstein Company is in bankruptcy and Harvey is about to stand to trial, this settlement will ensure that all survivors have the chance for recovery and can



Weinstein

move forward without Harvey's damaging lock on their careers," Geiss said.

The New York Times first reported the deal, which was confirmed to The Associated Press by several lawyers for plaintiffs.

Attorney Thomas Giuffra said the agreement was the same deal announced several months ago but with more punitive provisions aimed at forcing holdouts to accept it.

## Ryan Reynolds says he related to Peloton actress' plight

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Ryan Reynolds says he relates to the social media criticism heaped on the Peloton ad actress. In fact, that feeling led him to hire her for a commercial promoting his gin company.

Reynolds spoke Tuesday about the uproar while promoting his new action flick, the Michael Bay-directed "6 Underground."

In the Peloton commercial, Monica Ruiz portrays a wife

who receives an exercise bike as a Christmas present, and chronicles her yearlong journey to get in shape. The commercial ends with the wife thanking her husband for the gift. After the spot aired, the character was mocked for several reasons: Some noted she was already thin, others mocked her for having a "nervous" expression, and others were angry her husband gave

her an exercise gift, as if she needed to lose weight.

Reynolds thought the viral negativity was unfair, and said it's "a situation that I've been in many times before" as an actor.

"You put it out there, and it doesn't quite work, and you feel a little alienated and stuff. So, I had tremendous empathy for her in that moment," Reynolds said at the premiere of his new action flick, "6 Underground."

## Reese Witherspoon honored at Women in Entertainment gala

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Reese Witherspoon remembered when she met with several film production studios in 2011 to ask them how many movies were being developed for women.

The studios' responses nearly floored her.

"Of all the major seven studios, the answer was one," Witherspoon said after she received the prestigious Sherry Lansing Leadership Award at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment breakfast gala Wednesday

in Los Angeles. The Oscar and Emmy-winning actress was handed the award by her friend-actress Kerry Washington for excelling in film and her philanthropic efforts.

Witherspoon said she was grateful to receive the award named after Lansing, the former Paramount Pictures CEO who was the first woman to head a Hollywood studio. While she called Lansing a "trailblazer," the actress hearkened back to her meeting with studios that felt "grim."

"One movie was being

made with a female lead out of 140 movies," she continued. "As I was told by a studio head at the time, 'Well, we already have one female star this year. We can't make two.' Can you guess which year this was? 2011. Not 1911. ... 2011."

Witherspoon said the moment helped empower her to start her own production company, Hello Sunshine, which has produced Oscar-nominated films "Gone Girl," "Wild," and the HBO drama series "Big Little Lies" with an all-female leading cast.

## Daughter senses mom is hurt by her relationship with dad

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 49-year-old woman whose mother tries to make me feel guilty for having a good relationship with my father. I have an excellent relationship with her, but lately it feels strained because she gets mad if Dad and I do things together or even just talk on the phone. My goal is not to hurt her, but I refuse not to have a relationship with my dad just to appease her. Have you ever heard of a mother being jealous of her daughter's relationship with her father?

**CONFLICTED IN NEW JERSEY**

**DEAR CONFLICTED:** Yes, I have. But you say you have an excellent relationship with your mother, and this behavior is recent. Do you call and interact individually with her the way you do with your father? If not, it might help to give her more attention than you have.

Is her relationship with your father the same as it always has been? If it isn't, because you and your father have extended, private phone conversations on a regular basis, she may fear you have supplanted her in his affections. However, if this isn't the case, and she demonstrates other personality changes, her physician should be notified so she can be evaluated.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been trying to deal with this on my own for a long time. I have been "crushing" on a man of my faith for a couple of years, and it never seems to subside. We are

both married to others, seemingly happily. I like his wife very much, and I would never want to hurt her.

I think he is a wonderful human being, and he has said as much to me. We would never entertain the idea of an affair. From my standpoint, I don't know what to do. Do you have any suggestions? I try to give my own husband lots of love.

**TORN BETWEEN TWO IN MONTANA**

**DEAR TORN:** Do nothing about this crush. Continue giving your husband lots of love, attention and appreciation. Crushes are normal. Sometimes they serve as reminders that we are still alive. As long as they remain "unfertilized romances," they harm no one. You have a mutual admiration society because you both deserve it and have nothing to feel guilty about.

**DEAR ABBY:** Is there any way to stop charities from sending all of this "free stuff"? When I donate to charity, I intend for my contribution to be used to help someone in need. Instead, I am subjected to all kinds of things in my mailbox. I have received money, postage stamps, greeting cards, notepads and enough mailing labels to far outlast me!

I have now decided that any charity that sends me merchandise or any other "freebie" will be taken off my donation list. I hate to write bona fide charities off my list, but it has become ridiculous.

**WASTEFUL IN WASHINGTON**

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**DEAR WASTEFUL:** You are not the only person to complain about this. I receive many letters from equally frustrated readers about it.

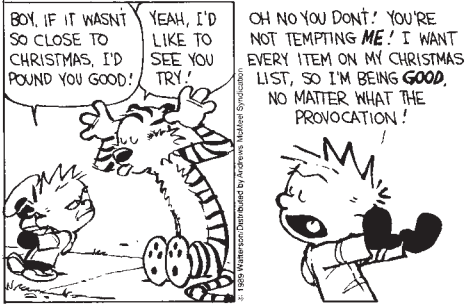
Before donating to any charity, go online and check out [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org). If you do, it will give you insight into where your money goes—including how much of their revenue is spent on salaries and "overhead." Just because you receive notepads, mailing labels and calendars does NOT mean you are obligated to send money. Please remember that.

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

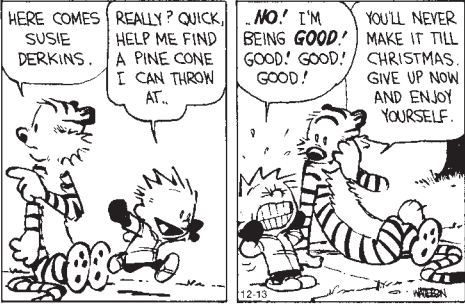


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

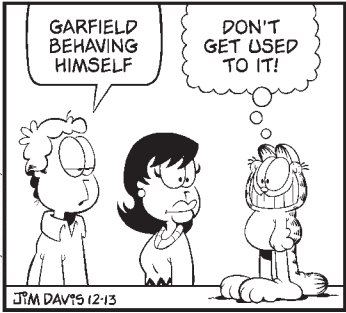


By Bill Waterson



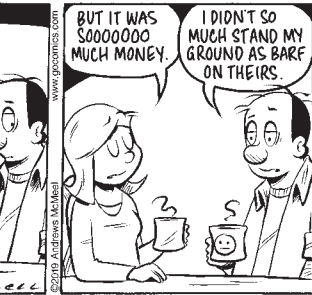
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



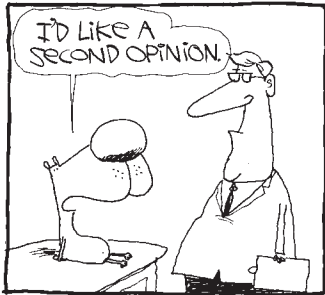
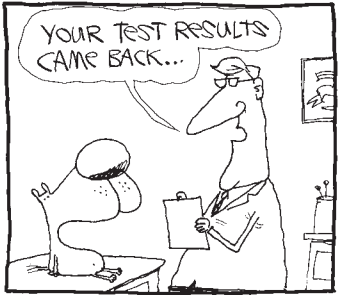
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Pouch

4 Compass pt.

7 Marina sights

12 Actor Danson

13 Hooting bird

14 Sound

15 Melody

16 Like upscale designer apparel

18 Cattle call

19 Strainer

20 Cougar

22 Gun lobby org.

23 Big-screen format

27 French article

29 Indigenous

31 Pago Pago's place

34 Walks in water

35 Out of reach, maybe

37 — canto

38 "Born Free" lioness

**DOWN**

1 Postage

2 Vowel group

3 PC drive

4 Billions of years

5 Suitors

6 Gantry of fiction

7 Innocent one

8 "— Town"

9 Nabokov novel

10 Can material

11 Lay down the lawn

17 Author Hunter

21 Hilo hello

23 Tuscany setting

24 Central

25 "Hail, Caesar!"

26 Ballot marks

28 — Claire, Wisc.

30 Shock partner

31 That lady

32 Have a bug

33 Brit. sports cars

36 Teller's partner

37 Esiason of footbal

40 Pesky insects

42 Choir members

43 Essentials

44 Windy day toys

45 Tosses in

46 Desires

48 Upscale auto

49 Shad product

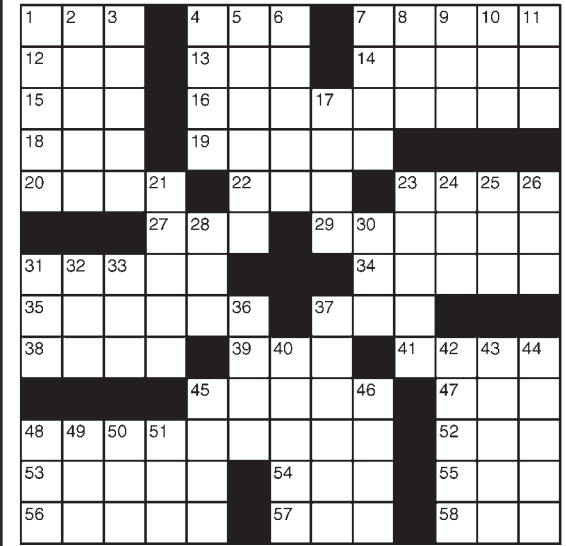
50 Mimic

51 Nancy Drew's boyfriend

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

F	R	A	B	O	S	C	B	E	E	P
L	O	B	I	T	O	R	U	C	L	A
A	B	S	I	N	T	H	E	I	C	A
O	I	D	O	P	U	L	E	N	T	
B	E	L	I	E	F	E	S	T		
L	I	V	R	O	Y	B	U	L	B	S
A	R	E	A	G	A	Y	P	E	R	U
H	E	D	G	E	P	P	F	I	E	
E	S	Q								
T	E	A	L	E	A	F	R	A	J	
S	A	L	E	T	A	X	I	C	A	B
A	S	P	S		A	M	E	S	B	O
R	E	O	S		R	E	S	T	S	O

**Yesterday's answer 12-13**



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Taylor Swift, 30; Jamie Foxx, 52; Wendie Malick, 69; Christopher Plummer, 90.

**Happy Birthday:** Relive what's happened in the past, let go of what you cannot change and move forward. Be disciplined when choosing associates, and spend your money wisely. Protect your possessions and your reputation. Reduce your overhead to ease your stress. It's time to decrease indulgent behavior and free yourself of things that tie you down. Minimize waste, and implement time management. Your numbers are 3, 16, 22, 25, 31, 36, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep your life simple, your attitude jovial and your relationships amicable. If you want to discuss change, be willing to compromise. Don't offer pretenses or trust someone who hasn't kept his or her word in the past. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Visit an unfamiliar place or do something you've never done; it will change the way you live, the people you hang out with or the path you follow. Personal gains, romance and family ties are on the rise. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Verify everything you hear, go directly to the source and don't decide until you are sure it's what you want. Someone will tempt and entice you to get involved in something that will benefit him or her more than you. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Put the drama aside, and focus on being creative. How you do things will make a difference in the way others treat you. A positive at-

titude will encourage others to follow your lead. Romance should be a priority. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Don't get angry over petty differences. Instead of ruining your day, make plans that will be fun for you and someone you love. Work with what you have and be fun to be around in order to avoid getting into a senseless spat. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** What you do will make a difference. A change you implement will be well-received if you put some thought into what others want and build in incentives to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Be observant, watch the people closest to you, take care of your responsibilities and live up to your promises. How you handle others and what you say to keep the peace will determine what changes take place. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take a break, visit someone you enjoy spending time with or do something that makes you happy. Attend a venue that stimulates you emotionally and physically. Traveling or attending a reunion you can share with someone you love is favored. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You are heading in the right direction. Don't let anyone cut you off or distract you from finishing what you set out to do. Holding your own will leave anyone who wants to manipulate you at arm's length. Trust in your ability to get things done. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Discuss your thoughts and feelings with someone you love, and make suggestions regarding lifestyle changes you want to make. An affirmative plan that encourages more time for living, laughing and loving will lead to a brighter future. ★★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Do whatever you can to help those less fortunate. The time spent will open your eyes to existing problems and trigger some viable solutions that will help your community and give you the incentive to do more for others. ★★★



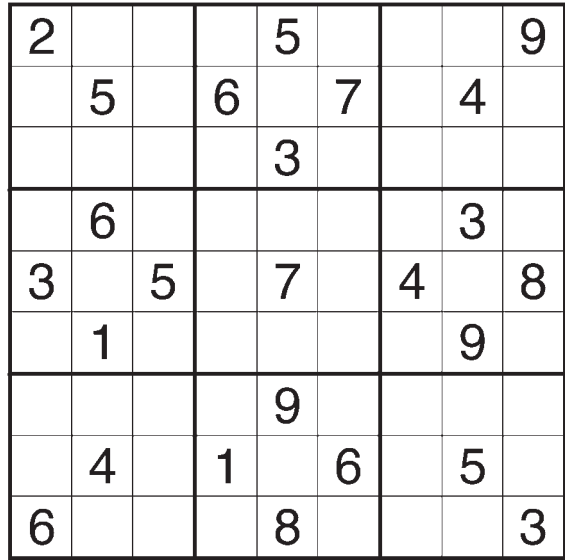
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Mix business with pleasure if possible. Getting together for a little festive cheer will give you a chance to discuss an idea you have that can help you advance. Creativity and youngsters will inspire you. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★  
**Birthday Baby:** You are fun-loving, kind and emotional. You are unpredictable and intense.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



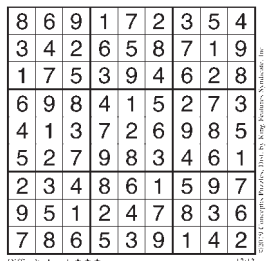
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

12/12

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RRRR, IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

Solution: 9 letters

E S W L L I H C G U S T Y W H  
T S O R E Z U F F D H A R A I  
A T L V E D R R N Y O C A R B  
M S E U D O I I R S V T U N I  
I I B L S G W A L E E I R I T  
L G E T I H U L R M L V B N T  
C O L D S N A P P O A I E G E  
T L Z I A U S E H H R T F S R  
I O Z J Q I R S A E C I E T E  
U R I S R A N K T A T E E E B  
S O R C T E T A S V I S L L M  
W E D U T E E T N Y C G P L E  
O T R T E H W I N D Y O U E C  
N E I L B L A N K E T © © (P) ©  
S M S E V O L G N I I K S L D

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Activities, Arctic, Below, Bitter, Blanket, Chill, Climate, Cold Snap, Cool, Cope, Crisp, Cuddle, December, Drizzle, February, Feel, Frigid, Frost, Gloves, Gust, Hats, Heater, Heavy, Home, January, Meteorologists, Mittens, Pellets, Shovel, Skating, Skiing, Sleet, Slush, Snowsuit, Soup, Squalls, Temperatures, Warnings, Winds, Windy, Zero  
**Yesterday's Answer: Heartbeat**  
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Commonwealth Zoning Board  
(Saipan Zoning Office)  
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Planner

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Planner. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Manage complex permit applications including pre-application consultations, application intake, review for compliance, assuring compliance with timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparation of project recommendations and reports as assigned by the Administrator; Prepare recommended updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Law, Zoning Board regulations, and zoning office guidelines; Coordinate, as appropriate, with other agencies and secure project reviews and recommendations; Identify and seek resolution of interdepartmental concerns; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the Saipan Zoning Law and related permit requirements and procedures; Maintain records using paper and electronic media and a Geographic Information System; Perform other duties as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:** Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 4 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, or related field. Other requirements include proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook Explorer.

The salary range is \$40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life, and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp). Application submittals should be addressed to Yubert Alepuyo, Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from the Zoning Office or the Office of Personnel Management. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: [Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp). FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is **December 27, 2019 at 3:00pm.**

WHATZIT Solution: Topless bathing

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>
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Classified Ads

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Classified Ads

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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# Rendon joins Trout with Angels, gets \$245M deal



**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Third baseman Anthony Rendon and the Los Angeles Angels agreed to a \$245 million, seven-year contract Wednesday, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced and was subject to a successful physical.

Rendon is the third prized free agent to strike a big-money deal at this week's baseball winter meetings. He'll join three-time MVPs Mike Trout and Albert Pujols on a team that's made just one postseason appearance in the past decade.

The Angels had missed out on free agent right-hander Gerrit Cole, who agreed to a record \$324 million, nine-year contract with the New York Yankees on Tuesday night, a person familiar with the deal told the AP.

"With our flexibility, if we miss a big player, there's still very talented players that are accessible in the free agent and trade market right now," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said earlier Wednesday.

Rendon, who has played all seven of his major league seasons with Washington, drove in a career-best 126 runs while helping the Nationals capture the franchise's first World Series championship this year. His 19.9 Wins Above Replacement, per FanGraphs, over the past four seasons trails only Trout, Boston's Mookie Betts and Milwaukee's Christian Yelich among position players.

Rendon is the latest big signing by owner Arte Moreno, following Pujols, Shohei Ohtani, Josh Hamilton and C.J. Wilson.

"We're within some structure of a budget and a payroll forecast that you relatively want to be near and then we just take those opportunities to Arte and see if he'll grant us the permission to do those things," Eppler said. "There's good players out there and players that warrant some sizeable contracts. I know the players that he likes."

Rendon follows Bryce Harper as a homegrown star in Washington to leave via free agency—Harper signed a \$330 million, 13-year deal with the Philadelphia Phillies last March. The Nationals had remained in contact with the 29-year-old Rendon's representatives Wednesday, according to general manager Mike Rizzo.

"The third base market specifically is an active market," Rizzo said. "There are several teams that are in the market for that particular position. I think it will move fairly rapidly, not



only in the free-agent market but in the trade market I think we'll see some activity."

After the news broke, Nationals shortstop Trea Turner tweeted video of himself kicking around a T-shirt featuring a picture of Rendon's face and

the message: "Anthony is my favorite player."

It marks the fourth big free-agent deal of the offseason pulled off by agent Scott Boras. Infielder Mike Moustakas joined the Cincinnati Reds on a \$64 million, four-year

contract, then right-hander Stephen Strasburg reached a \$245 million, seven-year contract Monday to stay with the Nationals before Cole's pending signing came together a day later.

Meanwhile, Shohei Ohtani

completes the final phase of his recovery from Tommy John surgery later this month, the Los Angeles Angels will confer with surgeon Dr. Neal ElAttrache and the team's medical staff to determine how to proceed with the Japanese two-

<sup>AP</sup>  
In this Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2019 file photo, Washington Nationals' Anthony Rendon throws out Houston Astros' George Springer during the third inning of Game 6 of the World Series in Houston.

way star's throwing program.

Ohtani threw another bullpen session Wednesday and has worked up to about 50 pitches, general manager Billy Eppler said. The team may decide to keep pushing him from the mound or flat ground, but he may also take time off before ramping up again for spring training.

"The first step is going to be get through what he needs to get through and then talk to Dr. ElAttrache and talk to our medical personnel and come up with a plan," Eppler said. "He's throwing now at this time of year at more intensity than other pitchers are and other starters."

"So my question that I'm going to ask is going to be: 'What's best for Shohei? Is it to just continue throwing, is it to continue throwing on a mound, continue throwing flat ground? Stop, rest, start back up? So I'm going to explore that, but I'm going to wait until we get through this and then I'll know a little bit more about how to utilize him.'"

Ohtani is throwing at 85%, and the Angels would like him to reach about 90%. Eppler said some pitchers on the staff will have their innings monitored—Ohtani likely one of them—without offering specifics at this stage. He does plan to keep Ohtani pitching once a week and hitting four days a week if all goes well.

"If he can do that, then that would be the usage plan," Eppler said. "I don't want to take additional risk on a guy who is right back from a UCL reconstruction. I don't want to introduce additional risk, clearly at the outset of the season. I don't think that's a mindful thing to do."

In other transactions, right-hander Scott Oberg and the Colorado Rockies agreed Wednesday to a \$13 million, three-year contract with a club option for 2023 that could make the deal worth \$21 million over four seasons.

Oberg gets \$2 million next season, \$4 million in 2021 and \$7 million in 2022, and the Rockies' option is for \$8 million.

He would have been eligible for salary arbitration this winter and next, and for free agency after the 2021 season.

"Scott Oberg is the right type of guy," manager Bud Black said. "So I'm happy for him and his family. I'm excited and proud that he wanted to be a Rocky for this coming length of time."

## Astros probe widens to almost 60 witnesses, 76,000 emails

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Major League Baseball has interviewed almost 60 people and obtained tens of thousands of electronic messages in its investigation into allegations the Houston Astros broke rules by using a television camera to steal signs.

Former Houston pitcher Mike Fiers sparked the investigation when he told The Athletic last month the Astros had used the camera to steal signs in 2017 during the team's run to its first World Series title.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said last month MLB was investigating Houston's conduct for the past three seasons, and he hoped to complete the inquiry before the start of next season.

"I think that this is probably the most thorough investigation that the commissioner's office has ever undertaken," he said Wednesday at the winter meetings. "I think we've interviewed already nearly 60 witnesses, 76,000

e-mails, a whole additional trove of instant messages."

"That review has caused us to conclude that we have to do some follow-up interviewing. It is my hope to conclude the investigation just as promptly as possible, but it's really hard to predict how long something like that is going to take."

Astros manager AJ Hinch and Boston manager Alex Cora, the Astros' 2017 bench coach, said they had spoken with MLB investigators, and Hinch said he had been involved in several sessions. New York Mets manager Carlos Beltran, a Houston player in 2017, refused to say whether he had been interviewed.

"At this point in the investigation it would be wholly inappropriate for me to speculate about what types of discipline might be in play," Manfred said. "I'm going to get all the facts in front of me and make a decision as promptly as possible on discipline."

### 3-batter minimum for 2020 season

MLB is pushing ahead with a rules change for 2020 that requires pitchers to face at least three batters or finish a half-inning.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred also said Wednesday the injured list for pitchers will revert to 15 days from 10 days. In tandem, pitchers optioned to the minors will have to spend 15 days with farm teams before they can be recalled unless they replace a pitcher going on the IL.

As part of a March 8 agreement with the players' association, management had the right to make the changes for 2020.

"I've been kind of contemplating things in my head, what we want to do and what we want to see and the kind of pitchers we want in our bullpen," said Dave Martinez, manager of the World Series champion Washington Nationals said.

All pitchers must face at least three batters or end a half-inning, unless injured. While the union refused to agree to that provision, it also said it will not challenge it.

"It's already come up in a lot of conversations. It's definitely on my brain," new Chicago Cubs manager David Ross said. "You will see definitely see a change."

New Philadelphia manager Joe Girardi said the use of one-batter situational left-handers had decreased in recent seasons.

"I think the game has kind of went to multiple-inning pitchers anyway, in a sense guys that can give you more than three outs," he said. "Depending how many left-handers they have, maybe you spread your left-handers out. So if they have a guy that is efficient in getting left-handed-hitters out, you surround him with two beasts that are right-handed hitters."



# US tumbles in opener despite Tiger's win

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Tiger Woods looked good as ever playing in the Presidents Cup.

As captain, his American team found itself in foreign territory — trailing for the first time in 14 years.

An inspired International team shook off an opening fourballs loss to Woods and Justin Thomas by getting big shots and key putts from rookies and veterans alike. It won the other four matches Thursday, never trailing in three of them, and wound up with the start it needed in a bid to win for the first time since 1998.

The International won the opening session 4-1, its best start ever and first time it led after any session since 2005.

"This is the start we needed," Adam Scott said after he recovered from his own nerves in Australia. "We haven't seen this for a while. We've got to try to keep this lead now as long as possible, and hopefully the week runs out."

Woods showed off an exquisite short game, building a 2-up lead after two holes with pitch-and-run shots that set up easy birdies. He chipped in for birdie on the par-5 fifth, and closed out the match with an 8-foot birdie on the par-5 15th, his sixth birdie in the 15 holes he and Thomas needed to beat Marc Leishman and Joaquin Niemann.

Asked what worked well in their first time playing together, Thomas replied, "Tiger was working well."

Little else did for the American, but that was more a product of great play by the International team that Ernie Els assembled to try to win the Presidents Cup for the first time since 1998, its only victory.

The International team walked off the course with arms around shoulders, a most



U.S. team player and captain Tiger Woods watches his second shot on the 7th hole as the turf flies up during their fourball match at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in the opening rounds of the President's Cup golf tournament in Melbourne, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. AP

happy occasion after having lost seven in a row since the tie in South Africa in 2003.

Even the normally stoic Hideki Matsuyama showed just how much this week means, fist-pumping his way to victory. Matsuyama holed a 25-foot birdie on the 17th for a 1-up lead with C.T. Pan, leading to the final victory of the session over Patrick Reed and Webb Simpson.

"We'll celebrate this little session victory and then we've got a couple more to go," Els said.

Next up is foursomes matches, a U.S. strength in the Presidents Cup.

"We have to earn the cup," Woods said, perhaps a remind-

er that history only goes so far inside the ropes. "It's a long week. We're not out of it yet."

Woods is the first playing captain since the first Presidents Cup in 1994, and it was his first time playing since 2013. It was his 25th victory in the Presidents Cup, one short of the record held by Phil Mickel-

son. He and Thomas never trailed in a match in which no hole was halved until No. 8.

At the bottom end of the draw was more dominance, this time by the International team. Abraham Ancer of Mexico, one of seven rookies on his team, and Louis

Oosthuizen opened with five straight birdies and build a 4-up lead through five holes against the American power duo of Dustin Johnson and Gary Woodland.

Johnson looked as though he might spark a rally when he smashed driver on 330-yard 11th hole to just inside 4 feet. Johnson missed the eagle putt, though, and Ancer drained a 12-footer birdie putt to halve the hole and stay 3 up. Two holes later, Ancer made another birdie for a 4-up lead and it was over two holes later.

It was the middle three matches were the International

team seized control in the opening session. Adam Hadwin and Sungjae Im won the 16th hole with a par, and Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay didn't have good birdie looks over the final two holes to lose.

Scott shook off early nerves and poured it on with five birdies, three of them on the back nine as he and Byeong Hun An handled Bryson DeChambeau and Tony Finau.

The last chance for the Americans to at least get a half-point came in the last match on the course. Reed, who heard his share of needling from the crowd over his rules violation in the sand last week in the Bahamas, made a

12-foot birdie putt to square the match on the 16th, only for Matsuyama to deliver his big putt on the next hole.

Reed's 30-foot birdie chance on the 18th to halve the match stayed above the hole.

It was only the fourth time the International team has led after the opening session, and it was their largest margin after one day.

"You have to win 15 1/2 points to win the tournament, and we've got four," said Geoff Ogilvy, an assistant captain who has a house at Royal Melbourne. "Still a long way to go from there. It's going to be pats on the back, this is a good start. But let's keep going."



**GREEN BAY, Wis.** (AP)—The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers will face off for the 200th time on Sunday. It will be Aaron Rodgers' 24th matchup against his NFC North rival.

With Rodgers as the starting quarterback, Green Bay is 18-5 against the Bears, with one loss coming in 2013 after the two-time MVP left the game following the first series with a shoulder injury.

In the 23 games against Chicago, Rodgers has an overall passer rating of 103.2, the highest in league history of any player who has attempted at least 250 passes against the Bears.

"It's a great rivalry for the game," Rodgers said on Wednesday. "Obviously, the history of that. It's nice to be on the other side now. I know when

## Rodgers set for 24th clash against rival Bears

Favry (Brett Favre started back in the '90s and early 2000s) I think we were on the other side of this rivalry. Now, it's nice to be up by three, I believe."

The Packers (10-3) lead the all-time series, 98-95-6. Green Bay has won six of the last seven meetings with the Bears (7-6), including a 10-3 victory in the season opener in Chicago. The Packers will look to sweep the regular-season series for the 15th time in the last 26 years (since 1994) and the seventh time in the last 11 seasons.

Rodgers said he can't go anywhere around Green Bay without fans reminding him about the oldest rivalry in the NFL.

"At the Piggly Wiggly, or festival, Fresh Thyme (a local farmers market), you might hear about the rivalry," he

said. "How much it means to the fans to beat Chicago. It's always big Chicago against lil' Green Bay. Lil' Green Bay has held its own for a long time."

Rodgers, a Northern California native, didn't grow up rooting for the Bears, but he was cheering for a player and a team that played a few miles away from Soldier Field.

"I have a lot of respect for the city of Chicago and their fans," he said. "I grew up a fan of Michael Jordan, and one of the channels we had on our 10-channel TV was WGN. So we got the Cubs games as well. So I grew up watching some Chicago sports. I was a fan of Brett Favre and had an appreciation for the rivalry. Obviously playing in it, it takes on a whole life of its own

because you realize how special it is. Not just the players, but even more to the fans who have seen years and decades and decades of this rivalry. And there is a hatred on both sides between the fans."

The players in this rivalry don't exactly love each other. But there is a mutual respect. Rodgers recalled the fun battles he had with his favorite Bears player that he faced in his career.

"I loved playing against Brian Urlacher," he said. "I have a ton of respect for him. Gotten to know him off the field now. I like him a lot more now that he's not sacking me or picking me off. But I have a ton of respect for his game and what he accomplished in the league. Just the chess match of

check, re-check."

"I remember specifically in 2009, we were playing them at home, and every time I checked, he checked to something, and the checks he was saying were super inappropriate. I think it was pre kind of the miking up of the guards, where every single word was heard. Because I promise you if that happened today, some of that stuff would had to have gotten bleeped out. ... I can still remember some of the crazy stuff he was saying out there, and I just always wondered, was any of that stuff real, or were you just (fooling) around?"

Rodgers said he's since asked Urlacher, who retired in 2013 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame

last year, about the legitimacy of the checks.

"He said a lot of them were real. They would come up with those specifically for Packers week," Rodgers said.

The Bears, who have won three straight and four of their last five, won't have Urlacher to contend with Rodgers. They also won't have linebacker Roquan Smith, out for the season with a torn pectoral muscle.

But Chicago could have defensive tackle Akiem Hicks, who is set to return from injured reserve after dislocating an elbow against the Raiders in Week 5. Hicks sacked Rodgers in the season-opening matchup and could be vital to slowing down a man that has six career games with a passer rating of 125-plus against the Bears, the most by any quarterback against Chicago in NFL history.



# Kawhi returns, lifts Clippers past Raptors



**TORONTO (AP)—**Kawhi Leonard got his ring, and the Los Angeles Clippers got another win.

Leonard scored 23 points in his return to Toronto, Lou Williams had 18 and the Clippers won their third straight game Wednesday, beating the slumping Raptors 112-92.

Maurice Harkless scored 14 points and Paul George had 13 as the Clippers evened their road record at 6-6.

Before the game, Leonard received his championship ring from the 2018-19 season, when he helped Toronto beat Golden State in six games for the franchise's first NBA title.

Following a pregame video tribute, Leonard's former teammates, along with coaches and team executives, gathered in a circle at center court. As the standing-room-only crowd roared with approval, Leonard embraced each player in turn before guard Kyle Lowry presented him with his ring. After slipping it on, Leonard raised his arms and waved.

"It was great, it was a great moment," Leonard said. "They did a great job putting it together, having all the players out there that won with me, standing there and presenting the ring."

"It was a special season for us, for me, for the whole city and country," Leonard added. "I'm glad we were able to win. It was a blessing."

Leonard didn't put the ring on all the way before the game, but spent some more time with it afterward.

"I sat in the locker room with it for a little bit," he said, "just admiring it and just remembering all the memories and all the hard work that went into it."

Lowry, who was planning to have dinner with Leonard after the game, said he was happy to hand over the diamond-studded hardware.

"He helped this franchise do amazing things and he got his ring," Lowry said.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said Leonard was touched by the warm welcome he got from Toronto's fans.

"It meant a lot," Rivers said. "Some players just don't let you in but I can tell you that ovation, to him, was very heartfelt. There's no doubt about that."

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley scored 11 points in 19 minutes before leaving in the third quarter because of a concussion. Beverley collided with Marc Gasol's shoulder as the Raptors center was setting a screen.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 points, Norman Powell had



22 and OG Anunoby 13 as the Raptors lost for the fourth time in five games and dropped their third straight at home. Toronto set a franchise record with nine straight home victories to begin the season.

The Raptors last lost three straight at home between Nov. 29 and Dec. 5, 2015.

The Raptors shot 8 for 36 from 3-point range, their worst mark of the season. Toronto matched a season low with 31 field goals. They also had 31 in a Nov. 29 win at Orlando.

## Lakers 96, Magic 87

In Orlando, LeBron James had 25 points, 10 assists and 11 rebounds to help Los Angeles beat the Magic.

Anthony Davis had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who have won 13 of 14. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 15 points for Los Angeles.

Jonathan Isaac led Orlando with 19 points. Evan Fournier had 18 and Aaron Gordon finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

The Lakers weren't crisp

offensively at the start of the game but didn't have to be. Los Angeles limited Orlando to a season-low first quarter shooting of 19% (4 of 21) and turned that into a 26-9 lead.

## Pacers 122, Celtics 117

In Indianapolis, Malcolm Brogdon scored 29 points and Aaron Holiday scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter to help Indiana rally past Boston.

Indiana trailed 94-84 after three quarters but took the lead for good on the first of Holiday's two 3-pointers with 4:16 left.

Kemba Walker scored a season-high 44 points and had seven assists -- not enough to extend the Celtics' four-game winning streak.

Indiana snapped a seven-game losing streak in the series—including Boston's first-round playoff sweep last season.

Domantas Sabonis flirted with a triple-double before finishing with 15 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. Brogdon closed it out by mak-

ing all six free throws in the final 17 seconds.

## Rockets 116, Cavaliers 110

In Cleveland, James Harden scored 55 points—20 in the fourth quarter—and Russell Westbrook added 23 points as Houston withstood an unexpected scare from the Cavaliers.

The free-falling Cavaliers have lost eight straight and 14 of 15.

Harden matched Kyrie Irving's arena record for points in a game, and his fourth with 50 or more this season bailed out the Rockets, who allowed the Cavs to score 24 straight points in the second half.

Cleveland was still up 108-107 when Harden, who came in leading the NBA in scoring at 38 points per game, dropped a floater in the lane. After a turnover by Cavs guard Jordan Clarkson, P.J. Tucker hit a 3-pointer from the corner and Clint Capela (13 rebounds) had a dunk following another Cleveland miscue.

The Cavs made three turnovers in the final minute.

**AP**  
Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) and Toronto Raptors guard Norman Powell (24) battle for the ball during the first half of an NBA game, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, in Toronto.

## Hornets 113, Nets 108

In New York, Devonte' Graham scored a career-high 40 points, and Charlotte rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat Brooklyn.

Graham had 27 points in the second half in Charlotte's second straight victory. Miles Bridges added 14 points.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 24 points and Jarrett Allen added 21 points and 10 rebounds for Brooklyn, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

## Jazz 127, Timberwolves 116

In Minneapolis, Donovan Mitchell had 30 points and six assists, Joe Ingles pitched in a season-high 23 points and Utah dealt Minnesota its sixth straight loss.

Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Jazz, who won for just the

third time in nine games by taking over with a 38-24 advantage in the third quarter.

Jeff Teague scored 32 points, making all four of his 3-pointers and all six of his free throws, but the Timberwolves dropped their sixth consecutive home game and fell to 3-8 at Target Center this season.

Andrew Wiggins had 26 points, and Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota.

## Bulls 136, Hawks 102

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 35 points in three quarters, Lauri Markkanen added 22 and the Bulls snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over road-weary Atlanta.

LaVine, who sat out the final 14 minutes, was 12 for 15 from the field, including 7 for 7 from 3-point range.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 11 points and 10 rebounds and rookie Coby White had 19 points.

Trae Young had 15 points and 13 assists, Alex Len scored 17 points and rookie Cam Reddish added 16 for Atlanta, which has dropped two straight and 13 of 15.

## USWNT named TIME's Athlete of the Year

The 2019 TIME Athlete of the Year isn't a single person after all. Instead, the publication looked at the entire sports landscape and concluded that all 23 women on the U.S. women's national soccer team were deserving of the honor.



There was simply no other choice. No other athlete or team captivated and impacted the world in 2019 more than the USWNT.

The choice wasn't just about on-field results. Yes, the women won the World Cup in dominating fashion. A 13-0 drubbing of Thailand kicked things off, and a 2-0 victory against the Netherlands in the final completed that run.

On the way, the USWNT inspired and ignited folks around the world—and in the United States—both politically and socially. The team's fight for equal pay became a rallying cry among both casual fans and those powerful enough to create legislation that could alter soccer's status quo.

Megan Rapinoe was the talk of the event, not just because she scored six goals and received the Golden Boot award, but also because she stood up for her beliefs and did not back down when President Donald Trump came after her.

And while some were angry about the women's willingness to speak out on

issues they believed were important, the numbers suggest many embraced—or were at least interested by—the team's message and approach.

The team's jerseys became the highest-selling soccer shirts in Nike's history. On the online retailer Fanatics, U.S. jersey sales spiked 500% over the 2015 World Cup. Global viewership of the tournament more than doubled per match, and a combined 1.12 billion viewers worldwide tuned in to coverage of the event across all platforms, a new record. On Halloween, young boys as well as girls were spotted around the country dressed up as Rapinoe and [Alex] Morgan.

While TIME's award only focuses on 2019, the USWNT isn't done fighting just yet. The equal pay fight will extend into 2020. The gender discrimination lawsuit the team filed against U.S. Soccer will go to trial in May. In July, the team will take part in the 2020 Olympics.

All of that creates a scenario where it's easy to see the USWNT contending for the TIME athlete of the year award again in 2020. Compared to everything the team accomplished in 2019, taking home the award two years in a row shouldn't be a challenge.



# 127 join Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race

Last Saturday's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race drew 127 bikers from 11 countries and territories.

The event, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation, kicked off with a shotgun start right before a brilliant tropical sunrise.



Australia's Kevin Biffiger went on to top the 100-kilometer race around the island and win the men's pro category after clocking in at 2:57:02. Guam's Laura Nadeau (3:27:55) ruled the women's pro division.

Biffiger was followed by Marko Pavlic (3:01:43) of

Slovenia and Toshiki Nagatsuka (3:15:45) of Japan, while Yasue Nakahara (3:36:05) of Japan and Kylie Adair (3:36:47) of Australia joined Nadeau in the Top 3. The top finisher from the CNMI was Joel Buco (3:43:35), who also placed first in the men's 50 to 54 age group. Other competitors were from Hong Kong, Korea, Slovakia, and Taiwan.

"This year's Hell of the Marianas is a reboot following the cancellation of last year's

event after Super Typhoon Yutu, and we are satisfied with the turnout," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The fact that we had bikers from 11 countries shows there is awareness and interest in the event, which we will continue to build on in partnership with the NMI Cycling Federation."

Seventeen pro riders joined the event. Competitors experienced Micronesia's most challenging 100K cycling course,

highlighted by the untapped natural beauty of Saipan at its most distinguished attractions, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island Lookout and Banzai Cliff.

"We were excited that we doubled the number of off-island female pro participants and look forward to increasing this trend," said NMICF president Vince Seman. "We promised the women that we will all bring them back next year if they promised to bring more female competitors, as well."

Sponsors of the event were Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, DFS/TGalleria, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marpac Incorporated, Powerade, Triple J, IT&E, Island Training Solutions, Bridge Capital LLC, Hyatt Regency, Bike Fix Guam, Saipan Apparel, Magic 100FM, and TRAC. The event was also supported by Neo Timing System of Japan, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Department of Fire and Emergency Services. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Russ Quinn, right, nears the peak of Suicide Cliff.

## ROLLERS 1

From Page 32

1 leaned on its veteran players to dominate Rollers 3. Ervin Villarin led Rollers 1 with his 17 points, while Steve King and Mikel Johnson also finished in twin digits, adding 10 each. Chioni Dela Cruz and Matthew Richardson logged 9 points apiece, while Gregory Deleon Guerrero registered 6 to complete Rollers 1's balanced offense.

With its gunners in their usual form, Rollers 1 opened with a 41-20 halftime lead and was never threatened in the game to join the Ol'Aces 1 on top of the team standings.

Rollers 3 failed to make headway and absorbed its second loss in as many matches with only Rance Robert and Jun Agulto showing a steady offensive game. Robert top-scored for Rollers 3 with his 13 points, while Agulto chipped in 12. Allan Marillo added 8, but his baskets came when the game was already decided early in the second

half, while the three other Rollers 3 players who scored in the lopsided match was held to one basket apiece.

Meanwhile, the 2019 Tan-Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament will take a break for about two weeks to give way to repairs at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

### First Game

**Rollers 1 79**—Villarin 17, King 10, Johnson 10, Dela Cruz 9, Richardson 9, Deleon Guerrero 6, Sablan 5, Santos 4, Atalig 4, Evangelista 3.

**Rollers 3 39**—Robert 13, Agulto 12, Marila 8, Pangelinan 2, Raquipo 2, Castro 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 41-20, 79-39.

### Second Game

**Rollers 2 41**—Mizutani 9, Pangelinan 8, Palmes 7, Nara-ja 5, Cruz 4, Magno 4, Macaranas 2, Toves 2.

**Ol'Aces 3 38**—Padayao 14, Fiden 12, Desebel 3, Kaipat 3, Kapwich 2, Johnny 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 20-16, 41-38.

## VOLLEYBALL

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Eagles downed Dandan Middle School 1, 21-17, 21-11, in their final game in the regular season last Wednesday for a perfect 6-0 record.

Hopwood Middle School 3 will join GCA in the second round, as the Hilitais finished second in the elimination after earning a 5-1 mark and beating Dandan 1 and Hopwood 1 in the tiebreak for the No. 2 spot. Dandan 1 slid to No. 3, while Hopwood 1 fell to No. 4.

Dandan 1 will take on No. 14 Chacha Oceanview Middle School 1 (0-6) in the 3:45pm game in the first round today,

while Hopwood 1 will face Tanapag Middle School (1-5) at the same time. Tanapag also played in the last game in the regular season and was beaten by Mt. Carmel School 2, 13-21, 21-4, 15-9.

Mt. Carmel 2 (3-3) is seeded No. 6 and will square off against No. 11 Chacha 2 (1-5) in the 4:30pm today. Chacha 2 broke into the win column in the elimination after slipping past Hopwood 2 last Wednesday, 21-23, 21-19, 15-13.

In other first round playoff pairings, No. 8 Hopwood 2 (3-3) will duel No. 9 Francisco M. Sablan Middle School (3-3) at 3pm; No. 5 Mt. Carmel 1 (4-2) will challenge No. 12 Dandan 2 (1-5) also at 3pm;



Bikers head out to the course during last Saturday's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cyclists pass by Suicide Cliff during last Saturday's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Off-island bikers pose for a group photo at the starting line of last Saturday's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race at the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

and No. 7 Agape (3-3) will meet No. 10 Saipan International School (2-4) at 4:30pm.

Playoff games in the girls middle school will continue tomorrow with the first set of matches to begin at 9am.

In the co-ed elementary division (fourth to fifth grades), Garapan Elementary School topped the preliminaries and will be seeded first in the single-elimination tournament tomorrow.

The Mallards are unbeaten in regular season with their 9-0 record to finish on top of the nine-team field. Koblerville Elementary School, with its 6-1 mark, is ranked second and followed by GCA 1 (6-3), William S. Reyes Elementary

School (6-1), GCA 2 (4-5), Oleai Elementary School (4-5), Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, (3-6), Kagman Elementary School (3-6), and Saipan Community School (1-6).

The single-elimination playoff round will start at 9am with Kagman battling Saipan Community, Koblerville meeting GTC, and GCA 1 taking on Oleai. In the 10am match, Garapan will play against the winner in the Kagman-Saipan Community tiff, while GCA 2 and WSR will collide in the other 10am game.

Each match will be a best-of-three format and raise to 21 in the first two sets and 15 in the deciding third.

## JAPANESE

From Page 32

2017 debuted in the J1 League via FC Tokyo, added that he will recommend the NMITC to players and teams who are looking for venues for training camp during offseason.

"During winter time in Japan, the NMITC is a very suitable venue for training camps. I will definitely recommend the facility to players I know," Hirose said through Hiroto.

While training at the NMITC, the Tokyo-born player also managed to watch some CNMI players playing at the Koblerville facility. He was impressed with some of the players and said that if giv-

en enough and proper training, they will improve more and will be a great help to the CNMI national team.

Hirose also wishes to see more players on the islands turn into goalkeepers. He understands that some are hesitant to be goalkeepers, as majority of the players want to be strikers and score. However, he said that when you are a goalkeeper, you have control of the game because you're the only player on the pitch who can touch the ball and see every other player on the field.

"It's a very important position, you have a very good advantage over other players," said Hirose, who started playing soccer when he was just 3 years old.





Rendon joins  
Trout with  
Angels, gets  
\$245M deal

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Kawhi  
returns, lifts  
Clippers past  
Raptors

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Volleyball titles at stake

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Elementary and middle school crowns will be at stake this weekend, as the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Volleyball League holds its playoff round at the Oleai Sports Complex and Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 2's Jay Art Palmes throws up a shot against two Ol'Aces 1 defenders during their boys U18 game in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

## Rollers 1 and 2 triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Rollers 1 showed no love lost to sister team Rollers 3, while Rollers 2 also prevailed in its boys U18 game in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 1 crushed Rollers 3 in the first match in the division, 79-39, while Rollers 2 nosed out the Ol'Aces 3 in the second game, 41-38. Rollers 1 now holds a 2-0 record for a share of the early

lead with the Ol'Aces 1, while Rollers 2 owns a 1-1 mark, and Ol'Aces 3 fell to a 0-2 slate.

Koboy Mizutani scored 7 of his 9 points in the second half, including Rollers 2's last basket that sealed the win for the team. Darren Pangelinan and Jay-Art Palmes also delivered baskets in the second half to keep Rollers 2 in front, as they combined for 7 markers.

Craig Padayao and D.K. Fiden had 14 and 12 points, respectively, in a losing effort for the Ol'Aces 3.

In the first game, Rollers

See ROLLERS 1 on Page 31



The girls middle school division will start the battle for all the marbles today at 3pm at the Oleai field with the No. 3 to 14 seeded teams playing in the opening round of the double-elimination competition and the Top 2 finishers in the elimination automatically advancing to the second round of the winners bracket.

Grace Christian Academy is the No. 1 seed team in the playoffs as it was undefeated in the elimination. The Lady

See VOLLEYBALL 1 on Page 31

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A Saipan International School player returns to Tanapag Middle School during their regular season game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



## Japanese pro trains at NMISTC



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Former Japan national youth team member Riku Hirosue is on island for a five-day winter training at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The 21-year-old, who is now a pro, started his workout with personal coach Okubo Ryuichiro last Monday and will conclude their final session this morning. Hirosue plays as goalkeeper for the Renofa Yamaguchi Football Club—a Japanese professional football team based in

Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture and sees action in the J2 League.

The goalie, who suited up for Japan's U17 and U19 national teams, was impressed with the NMITC, saying the facility provides players opportunities to develop their skills. The NMITC, Hirosue also said through interpreter Ishige Hiroto, gives soccer fans a chance to see exciting games and more will enjoy the matches if the seating capacity of the facility will be improved.

The Japanese pro, who in

See JAPANESE on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Japanese pro Riku Hirosue, right, is joined by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff Jerish Angeles for a photo during a break in the former's training at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Wednesday.